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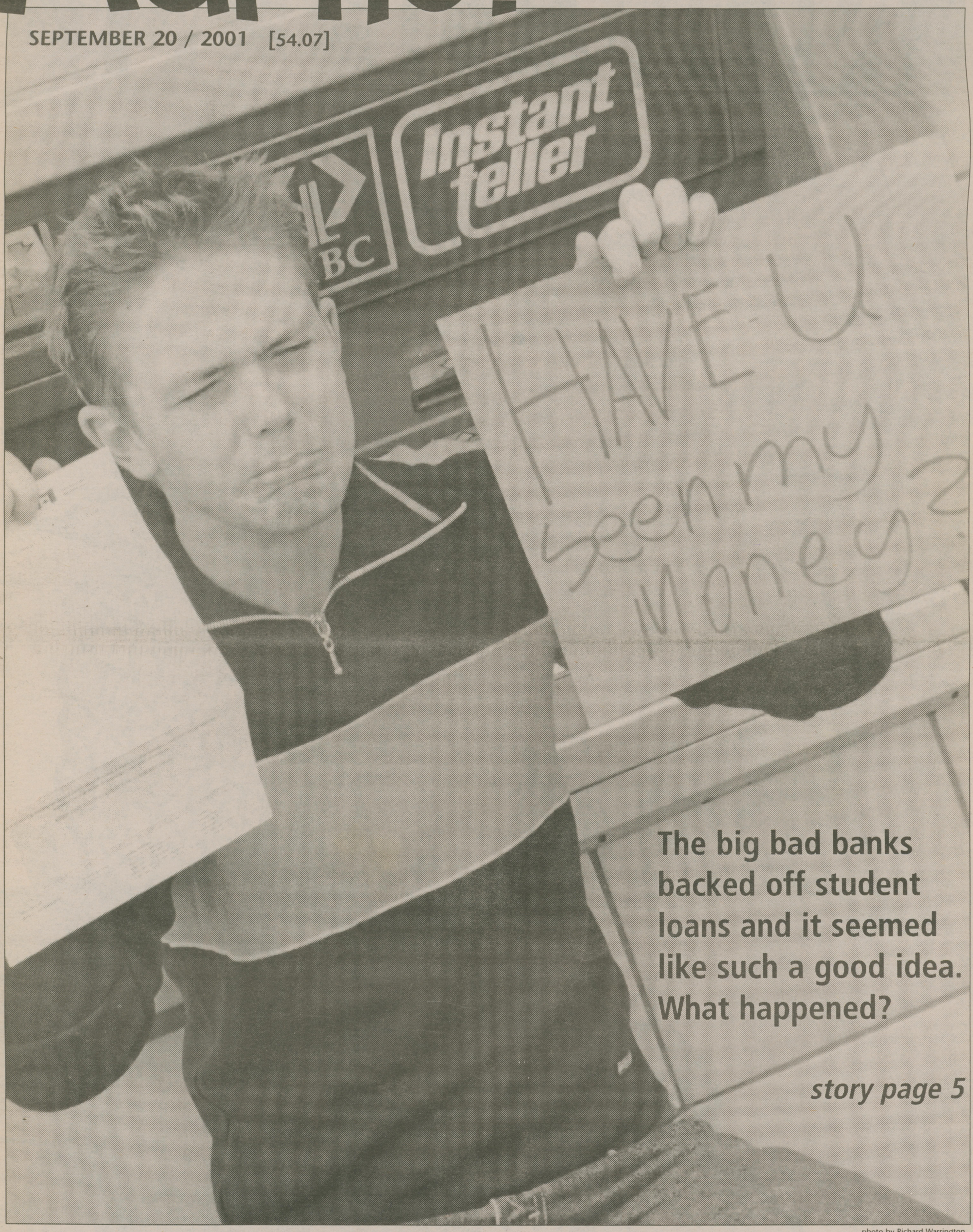

The big bad banks backed off student loans and it seemed like such a good idea. What happened?

story page 5

photo by Richard Warrington

INSIDE

NEWS
Local women return from UN conference on racism
by Elissa Bergman
page 4

Cycling event draws critical debate
by Lisa Jacobs
page 7

FEATURE
Inside every cup of coffee
by Michelle French
page 10-11

ARTS
Cinecenta turns 30
by Nina Lidvea
page 14

OPINION
Loss of innocence for whom?
by Emmanuel Raymundo
page 17

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Student Union Building • Another service brought to you by your Student Society.

Mad Liberal science?

by John Thompson

The BC Liberals have put plans to build a new science building at UVic on hold indefinitely.

The provincial government quietly put construction of the new building on hold, withdrawing the expected $28 million in funding. The 10,000 square-metre building would have provided extra lab space, consolidated various science faculties under one roof and provided space for additional research positions.

"We were told the first week of September the building was postponed indefinitely," said UVic spokesperson Patti Pitts. The building was UVic's top priority in its last Annual Capital Plan, submitted August 2000.

UVic was completing the building's program of requirements, the final stage before hiring an architect, Pitts said.

She added the province is expected to increase funding for medical education and high-tech programs, but no figures are available at this time. "We're waiting for details," she said.

A communications officer at the Ministery of Advanced Education said the funding withdrawl is part of B.C.'s review of all capital funds. They said the deferred funding isn't about cuts, but re-ordering priorities to meet certain education needs. At least $42 million more has been deferred from other construction projects in B.C. colleges and universities.

UVic student representitives are critical of the withdrawl of funds.

"We're already seeing public education paying for private tax cuts," said UVSS chairperson Jaime Matten.

Director of Academics Sarah Webb echoed Matten's concerns.

"I don't see the new era in B.C. happening without quality education," she said. "I think they need to go hand in hand."

Charlie Burton, Administrative Officer for Mathamatics and Statistics, says his department has been overcrowded for years. The new building would have provided much needed office space, as well as labs and classrooms. He said graduate students need to share desk space and there isn't adequate space for visitors or sessional instructors.

"It would have been specifically designed for science, and we desperately need it," he said.

Liberal Finance minister Gary Collins announced recently that the government would cut up to 40 per cent from every ministry budget except health and education to pay for a potential deficit of $6 billion.

SUB Intrigue party a success without fence banner ads

by John Thompson

Last week's SUB Intrigue party filled the Student Union Building with smoke, lights and music. What's more, the Student Society's plans to adorn the security fence with corporate advertising were not pursued.

Students society chair Jaime Matten said that security-fence ads weren't used because they weren't needed.

However, the party wasn't ad-free. Prominent mini-bars were scattered throughout the venue, stocked with Jack Daniels, Rev, and Sol, and there were prominent ads, most noticeably a large Rev banner hanging in the multipurpose room.

Matten pointed out similar ads are found in any bar around town, including Felicitas. "It's part of the setup," she said.

Director at Large Adam Peters was also cool with the liquor banners. "I think people knew it was held by the Student Society, not by corporations," he said.

Peters was happy with the outcome. "Hopefully SUB Night will increase in popularity," said Peters, although he added he hasn't gone this year.

photo by Melissa Cook

UVic revellers get jiggy at the SUB Intrigue party without those annoying banner ads cramping their style.

Matten estimated almost 2,000 people went to SUB Intrigue. She says they're still calculating the costs, but she's confident that the student society broke even.

"The party paid for itself," she said. "Hopefully we can try this again next September, or even January," she added.

UVic conference to challenge global militarism

by Tanis Wahl and Ben Isitt

A conference called 'Resisting Global Militarism' scheduled to take place at the University of Victoria's MacLaurin Building next weekend will happen in the timely wake of the Sept. 11 bombing of the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

With talk of war and retaliation running rampant in media and campus conversation, the topics covered by guest speakers on national disarmament and global militarization will have a heightened sense of urgency and relevancy.

"What is being proposed by the US administration as far as military response - perhaps this conference is more important than ever," said Stephen Staples, a member of the International Network on Disarmament and Globalization who will be speaking at the conference. "I think that this movement will be important in ... putting what happened in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania in a global context."

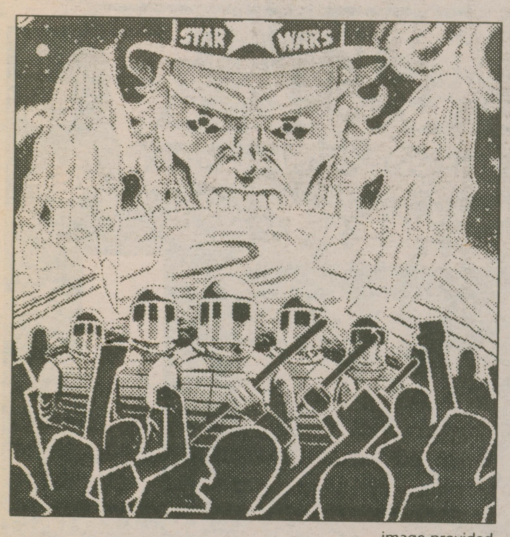

image provided

The three-day conference, sponsored by the UVic-based Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIRPIG) and the Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA), will feature workshops, free food, an art show, and ten key-note speakers who will discuss such themes as Ballistic Missile Defense; Militarism, Imperialism and Resistance; the International Arms Trade; and the Impact of Militarism on Women in the Philippines.

The conference fee is based on a sliding scale of $25 to $50, with single sessions running as little as $5. As many as 250 people are expected to attend.

"I feel there's a heightened awareness of our connection to militarism," said Stacy Chappel, the executive director of VIPIRG and a peace activist since the late 1980s.

Chappel said she began organizing the conference two years ago, when it was announced that defense ministers from NATO countries would be meeting in Victoria this October.

"We had one community meeting and NATO pulled out," Chappel said. Victoria Police Chief Paul Battershill submitted a report to Mayor Alan Lowe raising security concerns, and the conference was moved to Ottawa.

"We decided to continue with the conference and shift the focus from NATO to the general context of militarism," Chappel said.

With the conference now a week away, world events have catapulted the question of militarism into the spotlight. With the twin towers of the World Trade Center reduced to rubble and the Pentagon still smoldering from a suicide air raid, the United States and its allies appear poised to launch a new war.

"It just goes on and on and on, the ways in which Canada has been involved in military over the years," Chappel said, citing western military campaigns in Central America, Iraq, East Timor, and Yugoslavia.

> Canada is the ninth largest seller of arms in the world. We sell millions of dollars worth of arms to dictators and despots and terrorists all over the world on a regular basis. That's business as usual.
>
> *Stacey Chappel*

"Canada is the ninth largest seller of arms in the world. We sell millions of dollars worth of arms to dictators and despots and terrorists all over the world on a regular basis. That's business as usual."

While she is saddened by the recent bombing of Manhatten and Washington, DC, Chappel would like to see something positive come out of this crisis. She believes further violence is not the answer.

"The U.S. military has already admitted that they trained some of the pilots," Chappel said. "If that doesn't convince people that the logical step to prevent terrorism is to stop the arms trade with human rights abusers and to stop training torturers like the U.S. does in the School of the Americas, I don't know what will."

'Resisting Global Militarism' will situate the recent bombings within the context of global militarism. A line-up of high-profile speakers will converge on Victoria for the three-day event, including New Democrat MP Svend Robinson, Montreal activist Jaggi Singh, and the Rt. Reverand Bill Phipps, former moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Cecelia Diocson, from the Phillipine Women Centre in Vancouver, will speak on the impact of militarism on women in the Phillipines and around the word.

"I think the topic is very timely," Diocson said. "I have been listening to the talk shows in BC ... and there is still a lack of understanding about what is really happening. I'm really frustrated that things are not being understood the way it should be, and so we really need to put forward more education."

UVic students are also feeling the impact of the recent bombings. Students of Arab origin have reportedly avoided coming to class. Indu Vashist, a third-year history student who is working with Chappel to organize the conference, said "it's scarier."

"I feel like I have to look over my shoulder a lot more," said Vashist, who's family is from India. "I feel personally more at risk."

She cites attacks on Muslims and people of colour across North America and attacks on mosques in Montreal and elsewhere.

"I think it's really important for people to stick together when people at the top are unified," Vashist said. "We can't just mourn. We have to organize."

Staples echoes this sentiment.

"People in their guts may want to blow something up or kill other people in revenge," Staples said. "It's the responsibility of civilized societies to blunt that and look at the root causes and find a just solution to this, not just a war solution."

The 'Resisting Global Militarism' conference runs Sept. 27-29 at the University of Victoria's MacLaurin Building. For more information, call VIPIRG at 472-4558 or register online at www.vipirg.ca.

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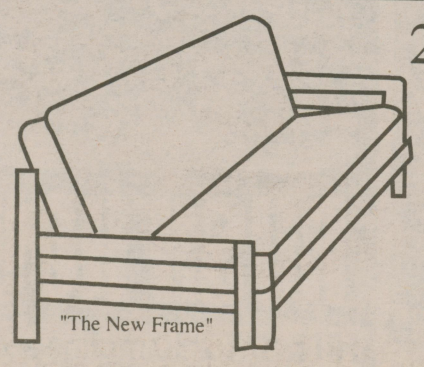
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Students win big award for scientific endeavours

by Tim Shuff

Curiosity pays. At a time when funding is a concern for all students, three UVic recipients of a prestigious science award can now say goodbye to funding worries and pursue their academic dreams.

At a ceremony last Thursday in Vancouver, Tessa Campbell, Michael Wilson, and Kelli Stajduhar were presented with awards from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. The awards fund research and travel for two years and each valued at $45,000 or more.

"This is a big surprise as well as inspiring," said Michael Wilson, a PhD student doing genetic research in the Biology department. He is mapping a small part of chromosome seven, where there is a chance he will find genes involved in cancer. One of the most exciting benefits, he said, is the opportunity to build a springboard for further research.

photo by Tim Shuff

Tessa Campbell, Kelli Stajduhar and Michael Wilson are UVic's new stars of science.

"We're doing biomedical research but we're doing it at the primary level, generating the information for ourselves and other people to use," he said. Something his team found by accident was already useful for scientists in Montreal.

"It put their work ahead by a year and a half," said Wilson.

He said the award will make this type of collaboration easier as it provides him money to attend conferences. Wilson is happy he can now afford to go to the Mammalian Genome Conference in Edinburgh this November.

Tessa Campbell, a PhD student in Biology, also said that the freedom to travel to conferences will make her research more productive. She is studying Gaucher disease, a hereditary condition characterized by the deficiency of a specialized enzyme glucocerebrosidase. Her findings may significantly improve the lives of Gaucher sufferers by facilitating early – even prenatal – diagnosis and improving treatment.

For Campbell, the Michael Smith award supplements an NSERC grant which expires this school year. She said she will actually be able to further her research because of the extra year of funding.

> We need to make some significant improvements in the way our public health system deals with people who are dying.
>
> *Kelli Stajduhar*

Kelli Stajduhar is a former UVic undergrad now beginning postdoctoral research at UVic's Centre on Aging. Building on 15 years of experience as a nurse for people with cancer and AIDS, Stajduhar is looking at ways to improve care for people in their final years of life.

Death is something that will affect us all, and is a growing issue as our population ages, Stajduhar said.

"We need to make some significant improvements in the way our public health system deals with people who are dying," she added. People sometimes quit their jobs and even lose their houses trying to care for a family member who is dying.

"I really want to make sure I play a part in trying to make things better for people," she said.

The awards will also have spinoff benefits to other students and researchers. Wilson pointed out that his award will free up funding to support an additional graduate student.

In these cases, the Michael Smith awards, named after B.C.'s first Nobel Prize winner, appear to be fulfilling their purpose of promoting health research in B.C.

"This will certainly be an avenue that will let me stay in Canada as opposed to having to go somewhere else for funding," said Campbell.

Local women return from UN conference on racism

by Elissa Bergman

A local human rights activist is angry at the treatment she received at the United Nations World Conference on Racism held in Durban, South Africa earlier this month.

Rose Henry said that indigenous groups from North America were herded behind ribbons and at times outnumbered by police officers.

"They were brainwashed to think that North American Indians are savages and are more violent than they are," said Henry, who represented the Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition at the conference.

"Our group was the only one that was ribboned off and told not to step past the lines." Henry said she was the first person to call the UN a racist organization based on the fact that every indigenous person, whether from her own group or another, was denied the opportunity to speak with the UN Board of Directors and talk to other government officials.

Henry said one of the paragraphs in the draft led to the unfair situation. The paragraph said the UN wouldn't recognize indigenous peoples' inheritance rights, nor offer them any protection.

"They refused to acknowledge that there is a link between human rights and land claims," said Henry. She said when they tried to talk about Canadian human rights issues, the Canadian Government delegates at the conferences said it was not that bad.

> We [Canada] have a higher poverty rate per capita than most third world countries.
>
> *Rose Henry*

The Canadian government is in denial, she said, and is not willing to accept the problems it has in its own country.

"We have a higher poverty rate per capita than most third world countries," she said.

Henry said that there was a point where she did not see herself as Canadian when someone asked her why her government was not there.

"I was ashamed that they didn't take more of an active role in advocating for Canadians," she said.

Dr. Liz Philipose, a UVic Political Science professor attended the conference at the invitation of the South African NGO Coalition.

She said she returned with a lack of faith in governments doing anything productive.

"No governments at the conference were ready to admit they have racism [in their countries]," she said. "It's defensive sovereignty. They protect each other. The principle of sovereignty is to let each country do what they want so we can do what we want. It's a defence mechanism."

Philipose said that as much as we may think that the Canadian Government follows the United States, they really act in their own bigoted ways.

Two years ago, Canada attended the first preparatory meeting for the conference in Geneva, she explained. At the meeting, the small number of NGOs from Canada commented on the institutionalized racism of the Canadian justice system and the failure of Canada to follow the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

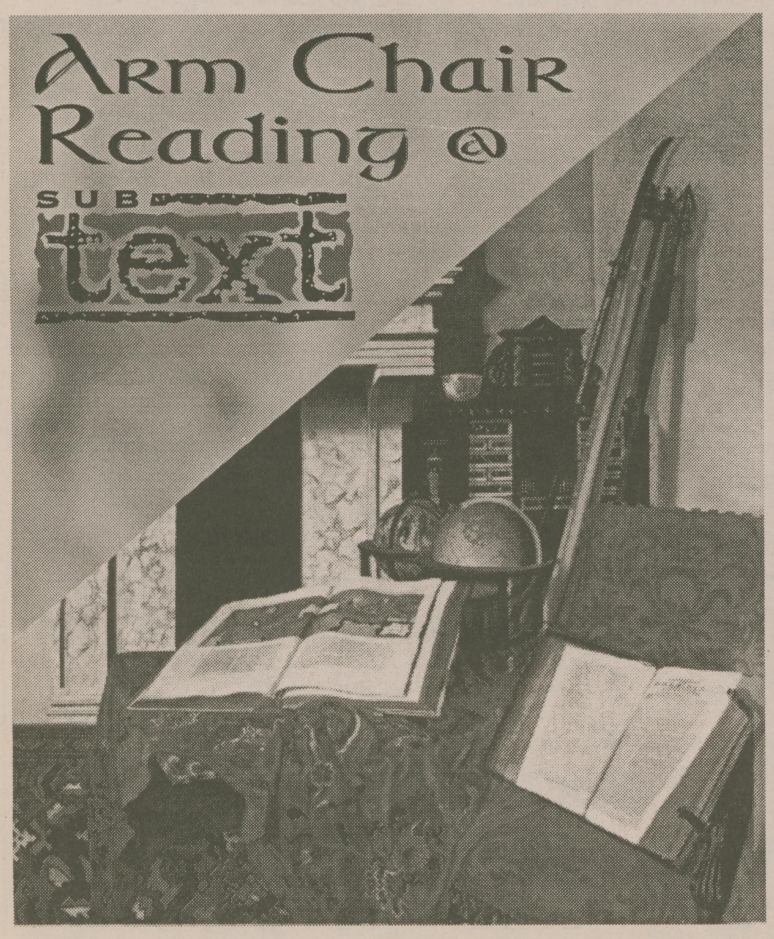
She said the Canadian government has started to water down agreements to avoid similar embarrassments and their conduct at the recent conference is no exception.

The Canadian Government tried to make less stringent paragraphs referring to immigration policy by removing the grounds of discrimination, explained Philipose.

When Barbados and other countries told Canada that those things could not be removed, Canada's argument was that we're all at a racism conference so we don't need to mention racism as a grounds of discrimination. Philipose said the whole room of governments groaned at Canada's weak arguments.

"I sat on a plane [on the way back] with a UK government negotiator who asked me what was wrong with Canada," said Philipose.

The UN had anticipated that over the past three decades racial discrimination would have been eradicated and hoped this third conference would be the last scheduled meeting on racism. Philipose said that the UN was likely to not have been so optimistic in the lead up to the conference but it's worth noting that even a few years ago the conference couldn't have been held in South Africa.



Student loans – what went wrong?

by Kevin Groves

Now that Natalie Villanueva has received her student loan, she can finally get to work on her school year. The wait has been a long one.

Not easily frustrated, the 21-year-old Visual Arts student, specializing in photography, said she became increasingly dissatisfied when she waited in a long line of students to use the SUB's ATM, and was greeted with the unpleasant information that her loan still hadn't gone through, denying her the ability to pay for books and equipment.

"It was so annoying," Villanueva said. "I couldn't pay my chemical fees, or buy film and supplies."

The date was September 13, almost one week after Edulinx, the new loan service provider for public institutions including UVic, was quoted saying that the all-important transfer from the federal government to her bank account would take place within 48 hours of the September 5 disbursement date.

Villanueva said her professor was sympathetic enough to allow her to use the darkroom equipment and that the money from her summer job would keep her going for a week or two, but she said that the delay in her disbursement had already affected her courses.

"I only had about 200 dollars left and I managed to buy one book," she said. "But I wasn't going to buy any more if I couldn't pay for groceries," Villanueva said. "I need to eat."

Other students experienced similar delays and echoed Villanueva's sentiment. They took their complaints to Edulinx and the UVSS.

"We're obviously concerned," said UVSS chair Jaime Matten. "From the feedback we received students were confused, and they didn't know when their loans were coming through and what they could do to make them come through faster."

Matten added that when students approached the Edulinx information tables, located in the University Centre near financial aid, during the delay period they were given different answers of when to expect their loans to come through.

"We heard students being told everything from 72 hours, to five days, to three weeks," Matten said. "There seemed to be no standard reply. It's just impossible for a service provider to have that kind of uncertainty in the yearly finances of students."

Now that students have received their loans, though, the questions remain: what went wrong in the disbursement of student loans this year, and will this delay repeat itself in the future.

On December 1 last year the federal government announced that the administration of the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) would pass from the chartered banks to two private service providers who would handle public and private institutions respectively.

Edulinx, jointly owned by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and USA Group, a for-profit administrator of loans in the United States, received a three-year, $96 million contract to administer the CSLP for public institutions like UVic. BDP, a privately owned Canadian firm currently on contract with the B.C. government to administer its provincial student loan program, would handle loan disbursements for private institutions. Both companies' mandates began last February.

Sources within the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) said that what was particularly disconcerting about the delay in student loan disbursements was the miscommunication between student representatives and Edulinx personnel.

"We're incredibly disappointed with the breakdown of communication," said Ian Boyko, National Chair of the CFS.

Boyko said that CFS representatives had attended a full briefing in Toronto last January about the terms of the new student loan contract and had been assured by Edulinx that CSLP documents would be processed and disbursed within 48 hours of the September 5 deadline.

"Now, we've seen that the 48-hour timeline was the turnaround time for Edulinx to process the forms," Boyko said. "After that the forms are passed on to Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and then to the Ministry of Public Works for processing, which added days onto the process. What they told us then was a half truth."

Summer McFadyen, B.C. Chair of the CFS, echoed her colleague's disappointment and indicated that the effects of the miscommunication placed a huge financial stress on B.C. students.

She said she heard about one student at Douglas College who was living out of his car because he was unable to pay rent.

"Edulinx clearly demonstrated that they don't understand the reality of student finance," McFadyen said. "They should have been more clear at the January meeting with the CFS."

But Edulinx spokesman Wally Hill said that his company never made promises to have student loans ready in 48 hours.

"That was never guaranteed by us," Hill said. "All we did was issue an authorization, and it then went on to the federal government."

Hill added that as a service provider, Edulinx operates within the timelines that Ottawa provided them with and paperwork times can be affected by the process being used.

"The standard timeline for [CSLP] disbursements will be within one week if it's an electronic fund transfer, which 99 per cent of students opt for, and two weeks for cheques," Hill said.

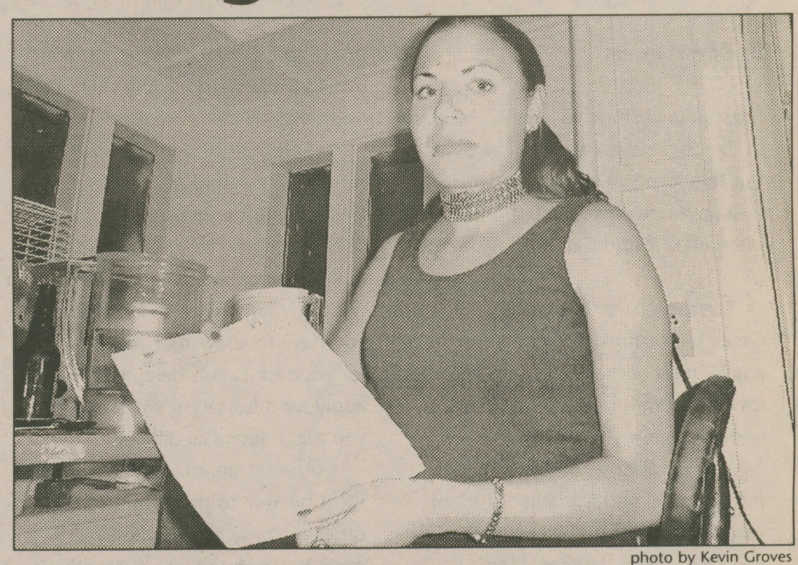


photo by Kevin Groves

Natalie Villanueva holds a document that may or may not be her student loan.

A further delay in student loan processing was due to the grounding of all flights in North America, including cargo planes from Canada Post, after the destruction of the World Trade Center last week.

Dale Barber, Director of Program Management for HRDC said that her office and Edulinx worked overtime to have loans in student accounts as quickly as possible once planes took to the skies again.

"Edulinx agreed to work the weekend, and our major delay was in getting the necessary information out to the banks because of what happened in the US," Barber said. "There are a lot of steps that [student loans] have to go through before being approved, but loans were processed by Edulinx as quickly as possible."

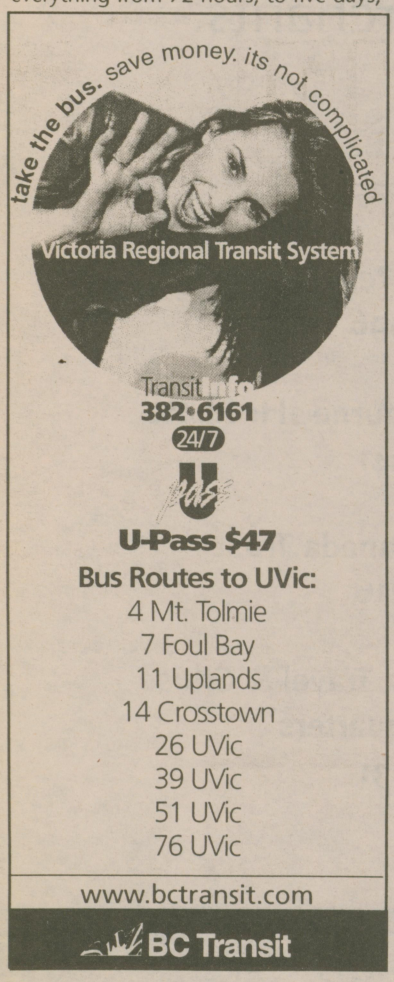
Barber added that HRDC agrees with Edulinx that at no point did they mislead anyone about how long it would take to disburse a student loan.

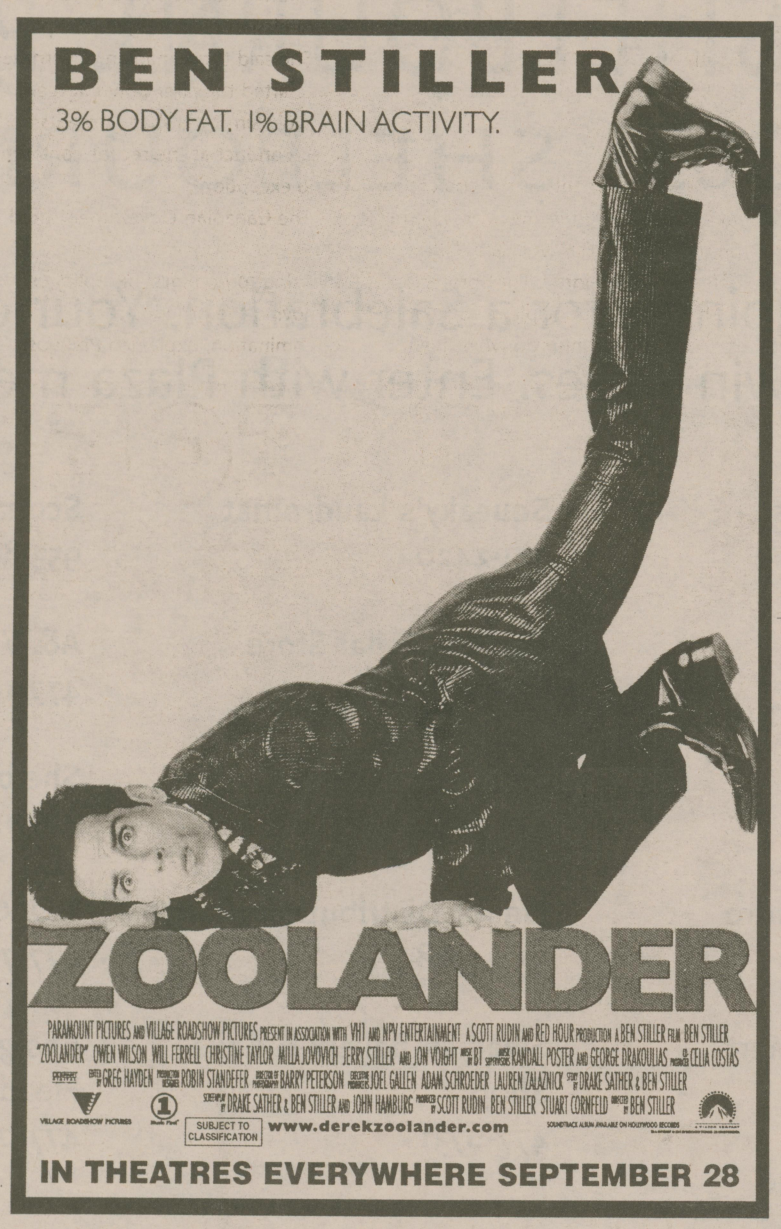
"All the literature that we have produced has clearly stated that students will receive their funds within one week of the disbursement date," Barber said. "We followed exactly what we said we'd do."

Whether Edulinx were unclear in their disbursement projection or not, Boyko continued to express dissatisfaction about the management of the CSLP this September and indicated that the CFS plans to address the issue in a meeting with HRDC on October 22.

"We'll be discussing how to improve the process to make sure that these delays do not happen again," Boyko said.

McFadyen added that should CSLP delays ever reoccur, UVic students should look into Financial Aid which offers a $500 emergency disbursement to tide the applicant over until the loan money arrives in a student account.

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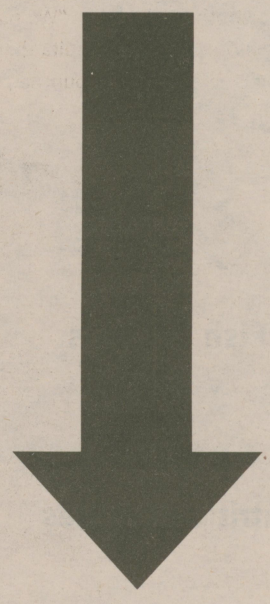

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Canada

Easing the burden for international students

by Kevin Groves

International students may be hit hard in the pocketbook to study at UVic but they can still expect a warm welcome from the Association of International and Canadian Students (AICS).

The association said its goal is to create friendships between students of any cultural background, and it works toward promoting cultural understanding at UVic.

"We do all sorts of events where International and Canadian students can meet each other," said AICS co-president Justin Walford. "[AICS] allows international students to meet others who are having similar experiences adjusting to life in another culture."

Some more popular events have included potlucks, skating and roller blading outings, an annual multi-talent night, and weekly coffee meetings.

"We try to promote cultural diversity through our social events," Walford said. "Hopefully giving everybody the chance to learn something and have fun at the same time. Most of our international members are really excited about being in Victoria."

The association admitted their numbers remain relatively small and typically affluent because of the high tuition facing international students. Tuition is three times that of a Canadian student, which is prohibitive for less affluent students who want to study in Canada. Sometimes even applying for the bursaries that are available can stand in the way of final approval.

"There's a catch in applying for scholarships," said AICS Treasurer Celine Ong, originally from Singapore. "Before I even step into Canada the government requires proof of funds to get my Visa, which is $18, 000. So you have to show that you can pay for your education here, and if you apply for a bursary it will show that you are in financial difficulty."

Currently, an international student must be able to prove three things in order to study in Canada. First, they must be accepted into a Canadian university, requiring proof of competency in English, then they must provide proof that they are in good physical and emotional health, and finally they must demonstrate to the federal government that they have sufficient financial means to support themselves throughout their study period.

"In theory then, they should not be students who require financial aid," said David Clode, executive director of Student and Ancillary Services.

"Unfortunately sometimes people don't tell the truth and in those cases the university is not in a position to aid them because the amount of aid required is so great and must be repeated for years. It is cheaper to buy the student a ticket home and on occasion that is what we've done."

Clode added that when events occur in the student's homeland that fundamentally change the financial support plan, such as war or currency devaluation, UVic will generally work with the student to find a way to address their financial problem.

"This may be in the form of assisting them to obtain employment authorizations, bursary assistance if they are in their final year, or arrangements might be made to carry their tuition balance until such time as the funding issue can be resolved," Clode said.

When asked if UVic makes money off of the tuition of international students, Clode emphasized that the rationale for different tuition is because UVic is a tax supported institution, which gets 25 percent of its operating income from tuition and the other 75 per cent from the taxpayer.

"Since international students are not taxpayers, Canadians should not be subsidizing their education," Clode said. "So they pay a fee closer to the actual cost."

Ong added that the fee difference is not just a Canadian stipulation and can be found in universities the world over.

Walford echoed this sentiment and said the fee difference is a challenge in allowing international student access to universities around the world.

"It's not just a problem in Canada," Walford said. "In many other countries, people who go to university are well off, and their schools don't offer financial assistance. We need to look at the people who aren't here rather than the people who are."

ON THE SPOT

Does the US have the right to invade Afghanistan?

complied by Darren Stewart

Grahame Nunn
1st year science

Yes. I think they have the right to go in after bin Laden but I don't think they have the right to target Afghanistan as a whole.

Lea Langill
4th year history

I don't know, I'm really torn. There are other ways react. A military uprising may not be any different than the original attacks on the World Trade Centre.

Devon Mulholland
4th year history

I think they have the right to go after the people who did this but I don't think they have the right to single out a whole country. Many innocent people would be affected too.

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Cycling event draws critical debate

by Lisa Jacobs

photo provided

Cyclists at a previous Critical Mass event in Victoria.

Have you ever imagined riding your bike down a busy street without worrying about travelling beside potentially deadly and polluting cars? That's the idea behind the upcoming Critical Mass cycle event on September 22.

University of Victoria student Joel Herman and Camosun College student Scott Howard rode in a recent Critical Mass ride and decided to organize another to coincide with World Car Free Day.

"We want to see scores of people on bicycles to try and imagine, or at least project the image of, a world with less or no cars – if even for one day," Herman said. "The very idea of Critical Mass is crucial in imagining this, or pushing it closer to a reality."

Despite the fact that Victoria rates as number one in the country for residents who cycle to work, cyclists are still a minority.

Herman added that Critical Mass embraces environmental principles as well.

"The global love affair with automobiles has serious consequences on our environment," he said. "It's common knowledge: the more cars, the more pollution."

Critical Mass is an international cycling movement that encourages local cyclists to come together in spontaneous street rides that take up road space normally reserved for cars and SUVs. After being menaced by cars every day, participants find it exhilarating to ride with a mass of other cyclists in a fun supportive atmosphere. The movement originated in San Francisco in 1992 to draw attention to the terrible cycling conditions in the city.

Since then rides have taken place in cities around the world. Some rides generate hundreds of participants, many of whom dress up, carry balloons, and try to achieve a celebratory atmosphere. Canadian cities like Halifax, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Edmonton, host rides regularly.

Hierarchy is discouraged and rides have no leaders, per se. Whoever is up front usually determines the loosely planned route.

Technically, a Critical Mass is illegal. The BC Motor Vehicles Act stipulates that cyclists must ride single file and not impede traffic. But the Critical Mass motto is "We're not blocking traffic, we are the traffic." Police generally lay low as long as cyclists take over only one lane.

Critical Mass derives its name from a cycling phenomena in China. The absence of traffic lights means cyclists there cannot cross intersections. As more cyclists arrive and wait the numbers eventually reach a critical mass whereupon they spill out into the road, forcing traffic to yield as they all move together with the force of their numbers.

Not everyone thinks Critical Mass rides are innocent. John Luton is the volunteer coordinator of the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition that works closely with all levels of government to improve cycling conditions.

"[The Critical Mass movement] is not relevant in Victoria," Luton said. "The folks we need to talk to are already listening. What's the point of protesting when the door is already open?"

Luton said he believed past Critical Mass rides in Victoria were too confrontational. He said the rides succeed in annoying motorists and make his job a lot harder.

Luton said cyclists can celebrate biking everyday provided they ride appropriately. He says most bike accidents are brought on by poor cycling habits. He believes that it isn't up to cyclists to tell motorists that their choices are wrong and therefore get in their way.

John Holland sits as a staff member on the UVic Bicycle Users Committee, which is mandated to make recommendations on campus cycling issues. While the Committee has not met to discuss the approach of Critical Mass, personally Holland appreciates Luton's concerns. He also sees a role for Critical Mass rides.

"Maybe Critical Mass will become more necessary with the change in government in order to keep cycling an important issue."

Local cyclist Paul McKinnon organized the recent Critical Mass ride in Victoria on the Labor Day weekend that drew over 60 cyclists.

"Critical Mass is like Tai Chi," McKinnon said. "It's different things to different people. For my daughter it's a fun party. For some it's a political event, and for others its just a celebration of cycling. For me it's to let people know that cyclists are on the road."

If you're interested in taking part show up in the Fernwood square at 11 a.m.

Girl Guides not a UVSS club

by Tim Holloway

The Girl Guides are not a member of the UVic Student Society.

After their ratification as a club the night before Clubs Days by the UVSS Board of Directors, there was some concern that allowing the Girl Guides to keep their "all girls" policy would set a precedent for sororities and fraternities to base arguments for support.

"We thought UVSS would be useful to us and [the Girl Guides] would be a good club," said Allison Fleischer of the Girl Guides.

But both the UVSS and the Girl Guides said they didn't want to change their rules.

"Members have come to the heightened realization that being a part of the world's largest organization for girls and women is a very valuable part of their lives and not one we are willing to compromise for the sake of becoming a UVSS club," wrote Fleischer in a letter to the society.

"In order for them to join, we'd have to change policy, which were not willing to do," said Michelle Kinney, UVSS Director of Services.

Spare some change

by Lorna Mace

Panhandling is an ongoing issue in downtown Victoria that organizations in the city have had difficulty dealing with.

When the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA) was disbanded in June, the program it created 10 years ago, "Give Change, Not Money," folded along with it. The program encouraged citizens to donate change to social programs rather than panhandlers.

Change collection boxes were distributed to Victoria businesses, and people were encouraged to donate spare change that would then go to programs supporting people in need. This was meant to eliminate any chance of panhandlers spending spare change on things like alcohol.

The business association wanted to send a message that if the donations were directed towards programs they would create change for the panhandlers but some people say the program wasn't successful doing this.

"That message didn't seem to permeate," said Helen Hughes, city councilor and former city representative on the DVBA board.

The disappearance of "Give Change, Not Money" has affected organizations benefitting from it. The Sandy Merriman House, an emergency shelter and drop-in centre for homeless women, was one of the social programs that was to receive a cut of the donations. They apparently received a cheque for $11.00 before the DVBA gave up on the "Give Change, Not Money" program.

According to Hughes, the failure of "Give Change, Not Money" may have been due to storeowners and their hesitation to put the boxes in full view.

"[Shop owners] didn't want to give the message that this is a city with social problems," said Hughes.

Jackie Ackerly, a member of the Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS) believes the idea should never have been implemented.

"Not enough money was coming in through the meters, and the organization might not have been distributing the change properly," said Ackerly.

Ackerly was concerned that the social programs that were to have received funding may not have represented all members of the panhandling population. For example, the funding might go towards single mothers in need, but not include single men in need.

Another reason for Ackerly's disapproval is the moral implication of diverting change from the hands of panhandlers to the hands of organizations.

"The fund was just a moral 'out' for the public," said Ackerly.

The DVBA was disbanded in June by a vote of the commercial property owners who funded the program. They believed that the association was not successfully addressing their three concerns with downtown Victoria-panhandling, graffiti, and parking.

According to Hughes, the commercial property owners do not understand how vital the DVBA was to Victoria.

"[The property owners] forget that it is to their advantage," said Hughes. However, the DVBA was demanding a 28 per cent increase in funding for the association, and the property owners felt this was too high.

The City of Victoria has also addressed panhandling in the "Community Code of Conduct," a project of the Downtown Pride Action Plan, centering on "R.E.S.P.E.C.T." (Remember Everyone Shares Public places and Expects Courteous and considerate Treatment.)

The Code of Conduct states, "In order to avoid a stricter anti-panhandling law, please respect that 'no means no' when asking for money, do not follow or harass anyone, and do not panhandle or solicit within 20 feet of ATMs, bus stops, parking ticket dispensers and the entrances of financial institutions."

The code also reminds people that panhandlers and solicitors should be treated with as much respect as everyone else. Respect is an important concern, but not as important as getting panhandlers off the street.

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EDITORIAL

Barroom brawl with Sheriff Sam and Deputy Dubya

There's talk of war these days.

George W. Bush demanded the arrest of Osama bin Laden and issued an ultimatum to the ruling Taliban government in Afghanistan. As the Martlet goes to press the clock will expire and Deputy Dubya, leader of the "free and democratic world," may lead the West into a large-scale military action–just like his pa did in the Gulf almost 10 years ago.

Canada pledged to stand by its ally, shoulder to shoulder, "as a friend," said Chretien.

Imagine a friend named Sheriff Sam who goes to the saloon every Friday night. He brings a crowbar and walks with a swagger. He's an odd fellow, bigger than any of the other patrons and he has a nasty temper. When you get a couple of beers in him he starts swinging at people, smashing them in the skulls and then swigging back their beers. He does so in the name of keeping order and justice in the saloon.

Inevitably Sam pisses off the wrong guy. This time it's the skinny one in the back looking thoughtfully into his beer. His name is Joe. As Sam lunges at Joe's head, the crowbar held firm and high, Joe calmly pulls out a small knife and stabs Sam in the eye.

Sam screams madly in pain and humiliation. As he still bleeds, he urges you to grab Joe and lynch him. He encourages others in the bar to mobilize a posse (some of whom have suffered under Sam's crowbar on previous nights).

Thoughts and emotions rush through your mind. Should you stand by your friend? Should you retaliate? You feel empowered. You want blood and you want it now. You are consumed by rage and a lust for revenge and your first reaction is a desire to crash the crowbar into Joe's skull.

But then a truly radical thought consumes you. It is first merely a vague inkling but like a rising tide you come to realize that violence will solve nothing. You throw down the crowbar and shout:

"No more!"

Is this reaction realistic? Aren't we obliged to heed CNN's brainwashed calls to action? (Watch your country kick ass! Westerners can come home from work, crack a Bud, whip together some hamburger helper, sink into the easy chair and flip on "Operation Infinite Justice." The war with the catchy title!)

As the towers of Babylon come crashing to the ground our political and economic leaders lurch us closer to mass destruction and depravity. Rather than moderation, the governments of Canada and the United States favour escalation.

'An eye for an eye,' the saying goes.

But eventually the cycle of violence must stop.

People in Canada must decide if they want war. Our leaders have made their decision, but Prime Minister Chretien's power depends on the consent of the Canadian people. If he commits Canadian troops, frigates, fighter jets and resources to a new crusade against Arabia, communities across Canada may have to withdraw consent from his government.

Over 200,000 Canadians have died in foreign wars. We should honour and remember these people by seeking constructive solutions rather than destructive ones. We should engage in dialogue rather than deception. We should organize our communities through networks of mutual aid, open communication and participatory politics. Thinking people in every community must liberate themselves from the regimentation of corporate culture and band together. A new peace movement is needed to defend the belief that life is more important than property and profits.

Ordinary people never benefit from war. Inflation runs rampant and civil liberties are restricted. Soldiers die and children weep as corporate coffers quietly grow with the runaway consumption of oil and guns and other machinery of war.

But war also has the tendency to radicalize people. The longer the destruction continues the stronger the will of citizens to re-organize their world.

In the two great wars of the last century, 40 million people died fighting one another. Since the Second World War, 20 million have perished in regional conflicts. Now the most industrialized and 'civilized' nations are propelling the world toward a new war.

The wooded hills of Vancouver Island and beyond look enticing, lush mossy meadows and tall stands of Douglas Fir seem a world away from the mayhem of war. But there is nowhere to run this time. Thinking people, people who can analyse militarism for what it is and who cling to a vision of a better world, cannot abandon their communities in this time of crisis.

In the words of folk troubador Joe Hill, who faced a US government firing squad in 1915 on a trumped up murder charge:

"Don't Mourn, Organize."

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Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**

STUDENT VOICES

The cost of peace

by James L. Tucker

If peace could be attained through violence, we would have had peace long ago. But there's no money in peace, anyway. Right?

The recent tragedy in D.C. and New York City cannot be dismissed as a fanatical terrorist attack by Islamic extremists, although some were probably used.

Critical to the attainment of peace is the understanding that this attack was a desperate reprisal in the war between the US and Iraq. Most Americans aren't even aware of what their government is doing in Iraq, and that is by design. But it has been called genocide by a senior UN official.

Shortly after the attack, bin Laden was suggested as responsible, and he was said to be sponsored by Iraq and the Taliban. Then Bush and his military advisors ran off to a secure bunker in Omaha and had a strategy session. Since then, Iraq hasn't been mentioned. The focus has shifted to Afghanistan, where bin Laden is supposedly in hiding.

It is very important to the Bush administration that the attack be seen as a fanatical terrorist attack, and that the spotlight stay off Iraq for two reasons.

First, if the attack was actually seen as a reprisal for what the US is doing to Iraq, then not only do the Americans become responsible for the attack, but the American people will start asking, "What the hell are we doing in Iraq, anyway?" It becomes another Vietnam — a publicity nightmare. And second, this way the government can set up Afghanistan as a new military target.

The American economy is driven by their monstrous defense budget and munitions sales. They NEED a war every 10 years or so. In 1988 they set up Saddam Hussein in Iraq. They financed him knowing full well he would go rogue in the volatile and extremely lucrative Arab middle East. Then they waged war on him on the pretext of helping the people of Kuwait — but actually for Kuwait's oil reserves.

When the dust settled, the USA convinced Iraq's neighbours they had to defend themselves from Iraq's mythical "weapons of mass destruction" and sold them $30 billion worth of munitions.

The CIA could have taken out Saddam Hussein easily, but they didn't. They needed him to rattle his sword. Now Iraq is a dry milk cow. So they've targeted Afghanistan, and they'll do exactly the same thing. They'll say "Surrender your terrorists!" and when Afghanistan says "Huh?" they'll send in the cruise missiles. Guaranteed. They have to use the weapons they have stockpiled, or the defense contractors don't get new contracts.

The Americans have a history of provoking a response, and then using that response as an excuse to wage war. War feeds their economy and moves them toward global domination.

In just 20 years they have bombed Libya, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Haiti, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Yugoslavia. Who's next? It's always civilians who die — they call it "collateral damage." This time they may have provoked a bigger response than they expected, but they're using it to full advantage. They have NATO and Europe and even Russia behind them this time. They're using the victims of the World Trade Center as an excuse to kill more people, tainting their memory with more innocent blood.

Obviously the goal is not peace, or even vengeance — it's money. They'll never touch bin Laden. Guaranteed.

Bush is calling it a War. There's been mention of instituting a draft. They're using the "terrorist menace" to ram fast track authority through Congress. And it's only been four days.

Dark days indeed.

Confessions of a Paki in fear

by Sharmeen Khan

With my job I have the normal everyday task of networking with people over the phone. Part of this job is giving them my name. Here is a sample of today's conversation:

"Uh, how do you spell your name, miss?"

So I spell it out slowly. "S-H-A-R-M-E-E-N K-H-A-N."

Long pause.

"What nationality is that?" the woman asked. Long pause on my part.

"Well, Canadian, I guess."

"No, no," she persisted, "I mean, what nationality before Canadian?" Long silence. "Oh, it's a Muslim name. My parents are from Pakistan."

"Oh! Well, I guess you're not a favorite with all the stuff that's going on."

Silence on my part.

"Well, it hasn't been too much of an issue," I respond.

"Well, I guess not. After all, Pakistan has had a pretty good position so far on the Afghanistan thing."

Now, I normally get a lot of questions about my skin colour, or my name, or my knowledge of various aspects of Pakistan, Islam and curry recipes. But these days, there is something in my stomach that makes me dread going out in public or getting into a debate on campus about the recent destruction of the World Trade Centre and attacks on the Pentagon. I usually take my colour in stride, refute some stereotypes and respond with humour. But I have to say for the first time that I feel very nervous. I feel more vulnerable. I feel more defensive. I feel more than ever that the colour of my skin is giving me away. That people will look at me and automatically know what I am thinking.

I never thought that I would have to refute the assumptions that terrorism is a hereditary manifestation that affects the people in the Middle East. I never believed that the Quran is filled with messages such as, "Kill Whitie." or "No democracy! Yes carnage." With everyone so shocked at the Muslim menace, I'm curious what they are reading to spur such comments as, "We will smoke them out of their holes, chase them down and put them to justice." (George Bush)

Or my favorite, "I say, bomb the hell out of them. If there's collateral damage, so be it. They certainly found our civilians to be expendable." (Senator Zell Miller, Georgia Democrat)

Maybe the woman from my earlier conversation is right. Maybe I'm not the most favorite person right now. I feel like I have to put on a disclaimer, "Yes, I am Muslim, but I was not notified about the attack. I swear." But this isn't only about being Muslim or South Asian. Whenever "we" (and I say we, because we all do this) single out an enemy, create an Other, "we" always reaffirm who we are. But I noticed that I was left out. In fact many people were – people who aren't white, Western, Christian and capitalist. So with the typical images of Arabs that look like an anthropology text circa 1950 (dark men with those funny scarves in the deserts minus the camels), you will also get a lot of anti-immigration rhetoric as a way to curb terrorism.

I may be being harsh. After all we are all supposed to be grieving, right? It is important to extend our hearts to the families of New York because they are us. I should understand the psychology of such a tragic event that "we" need answers. "We" need someone to be responsible. What is different about our collective psychology is that we are not entirely consistent. Were similar comments being made after the Oklahoma bombing? Would I be saying, "Wow, you white folk aren't probably liked too much given the recent bombing." or "Those Christians, they're crazy!"

So you're probably wondering why I feel fearful. Am I having nightmares of internment camps? Not quite. But I feel I have to constantly defend myself because of what my skin colour symbolizes. Not only around Islam or Arabs, but around immigration and terrorism. I feel nervous about my name as it is a common Muslim name. That when the World Trade Centre fell, they immediately blamed Arabs and then picked Muslim names out of the manifest–names that half of my family shares. This fear is instinctive. It is an instinct that has developed from years of racist rhetoric. Now the racism is more justified and my voice against it seems weak. It doesn't matter how many times I explain that problems of stereotyping all Muslims for the actions of a few suspects. Or that the images we see of Arabs reinforce hate. So many see me or hear my name and think I am part of the club. Part of a club that I didn't want to join, but was included by default because of my name and skin colour.

And now I have an entire war to look forward to.

Yippee.

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LETTERS

Corporate America is drooling.

Ol' Saddam has to be the best investment ever made. Set him up in '88 to kill a few Kurds and go rogue, and ever since he's been money in the bank!

Thirty billion $US in munitions alone sold to his neighbours on the pretext that they gotta defend themselves from Weapons Of Mass Destruction (rolls right off the tongue, doesn't it?) that - guess what? - don't even exist!

Nice enough, right?

But now - oh sweet heaven - just when we're running out of Iraqi children to kill (that's a problem when you get so good at genocide - you run out of fodder), Ol' Saddam puts together a counter offensive - puts on a damn'good show, really - and all we need to do is blame it on bin Laden. Now we get to do it all over again with Afghanistan!

"Give us your terrorists," we'll say, and then we lay in another cruise missile. Finally we get to use our cruise missiles - at five hundred thousand $US profit per unit! BEAUTIFUL!

Plus, we can ram Fast Track through Congress on a platform of Solidarity Against The Evil Menace. And they're even talking about instituting the draft! Think of all those yummy defense contracts - Hoo Yah!

And here's the ironic part: the CIA didn't even have to do it for us! Damn' good thing, 'cause they couldn't if they tried - they'd never have the strength of will or the balls to manage it. The Iraqi attacks on NYC and DC make the CIA's best efforts look like a toga party. Pity about the collateral damage (collateral damage - I love that phrase - it's so truly American). But fifteen thousand dead - hey, it's a steal at the price!

What a time to be alive!

James L. Tucker

Editor of the Martlet:

You published an article about the gathering at UVic last Tuesday organized by the UVic Interfaith Chaplains, to reflect on the tragedy in the United States. In the article we notice that the word Chaplains is spelled Champlain's. We think this typo would have been caught by your proof-readers if the word Chaplain was one that was familiar to the average student. However, we have noticed that few students know what a Chaplain is or what they do here at UVic. You may wish to follow up on this topic for a future article.

The dictionary defines the word as 'a clergyman officially attached to the military or to a public institution, such as a university'. In fact, at UVic, the Chaplains are a mixture of ordained clergy and faith community volunteers, a mixture of full time and part time and a mixture of men and women. They provide free services to students/staff and faculty that are of a spiritual nature. They are trained in spiritual care, religious development, ritual, religious education and one on one counselling. Some do weddings and baptisms and funerals/memorial services. They are self supporting, seek to educate our community about different religions in the world and work in cooperation and respect with each other bound by the Memorandum of Understanding that they have with UVic.

They subscribe to the principle of respect for their religious differences and commit not to proselytize. Mostly they try to be whatever a particular member of the UVic community needs in their unique spiritual journey as that person grows beyond the beliefs they inherited in their homes to a mature understanding of beliefs that resonate as being true within their emerging adult perspectives.

Liz Kuhr, Administrative Assistant
Interfaith Chaplains Services Office at the University of Victoria

To the Editor:

As I write this, people who have lost a lot of blood are dieing one by one under tonnes of steel and concrete. They've made their final cell-phone calls. They hope in vain for rescue. They think about their kids, moms, spouses and dogs and they're dying really slowly, one by one.

Meanwhile, out on the relatively-safe left coast the Martlet's editors want to remind everyone that they had it coming. "That's what you get," you wrote. If ever the time was inappropriate for told-ya-so's, now is that time.

Wearing a wig and fake moustache, you claimed to be providing "context" and then provided a history of the Gulf War that had all of the "context" of a bumper sticker. You practically accused the US of robbing a gas station in the Middle East and shooting 200,000 witnesses. You didn't even use the terms 'Kuwait', 'UN' or 'coalition forces'. And if the editorial was ill-timed and execrably argued, "Sky Falling" on the same page was frightening. Spencer Maybee thought that if left-wing radicals had been responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocents then, maybe, he should pitch in and help them out. Worst page of student journalism I've ever read.

Put down your hobbyhorses and think harder.

Hilton Wolf

Respect is paramount

Just like many students here at UVic, and across the country, I feel confused and shocked by the horrible tragedy in New York and Washington last week. I am, however, disturbed by the rise of disrespect and racial intolerance that is being reported both in Canada and the United States as a reaction to this tragedy.

As members of the UVic community, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our environment is free from harassment and discrimination. I encourage students to be aware of not only the diversity of the student population, but the wide range of reactions that events such as Sept. 11 can precipitate. I encourage discussion and debate of the many questions such an event will undoubtedly generate, but we must remember that emotions are high and be mindful that respect is paramount.

I also want to make sure students are aware of the resources available to them on campus. The Resource Centre in the Student Union Building, as well as Campus Security and Counselling Services, have a wealth of information and can aid students in accessing University and Society resources.

Jaime Matten
Chairperson, University of Victoria Students' Society

Corporate logos

A story in the Sept. 6 edition of the Martlet ("Corporate logos to be guests of honour at UVSS party") may have misled your readers regarding the relationship between corporate donors and the university. In the story, UVSS chairperson Jamie Matten makes a reference to corporate donors sitting on curriculum development committees, faculty advising committees and providing input on faculty appointments. She was referring to practices at other universities. These activities do not occur at UVic. The university's donations policy specifically states "although the University is grateful for all donations offered, it will not accept donations when such acceptance results in an abridgement of its academic freedom, autonomy, integrity or is contrary to law." While support for the university is sought after and greatly appreciated, it is only accepted when it in no way interferes or influences UVic's mission.

Prof. Jamie Cassels
Vice-President Academic and Provost

letters continued on page 19

MONOLOGUE Are protestors the enemy?

by Ben Isitt

Earlier this summer, a 23-year-old Italian named Carlo Giuliani was shot dead in Genoa. As tens of thousands protested a summit of the G-8 powers the young man was captured on film raising a fire extinguisher above his head, poised to smash the window of a police jeep.

A moment later, Carlo was shot at point blank range by a terrified officer in the vehicle. One bullet entered his left cheek below the eye, while another pierced his neck. As the life left his wounded body, the jeep drove over him before speeding away.

Carlo would never again see the light of day.

'Protesters get their martyr,' newspapers proclaimed. "What would you have done if you'd been in that jeep?" a leading Canadian academic asked a caller on CBC Saskatchewan.

To me, who was right and who was wrong hardly matters. Deploying a police jeep into a crowd of protesters is inherently provocative. Threatening to smash the vehicle with a fire extinguisher is brave but ill-conceived when the passengers are armed.

Regardless of where blame lies, Carlo Giuliani's death exposes a troubling reality: we say we live in a democracy, yet our leaders cannot hold meetings without the police using lethal force to protect them. The newspapers tell us the problem is "violent protest," but this line of argument is beginning to wear thin.

"Trade protest turns violent," the Times Colonist proclaimed the day after the WTO demonstrations in Seattle two Novembers ago. I was there, and witnessed a military campaign where US Special Forces troops, National Guardsmen, and Seattle police used concussion grenades, tear gas, armoured personal carriers and rubber bullets to reclaim a city from a disobedient population. Corporate property was damaged as protesters fled the police onslaught.

Even if smashing the front windows of Nike Town and Starbucks qualifies as violence (a claim I believe to be suspect), the Times Colonist failed to identify the violence perpetrated by the state against the thousands of peaceful citizens.

Then protests spread to a meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, DC. The Organization of American States was targeted in Windsor, Ont., and the World Petroleum Congress in Calgary. From Prague to Nice to London this new "anti-globalization" movement came into being.

Quebec City was transformed into a warzone last April for the Summit of the Americas, when 34 leaders met to draft the contentious Free Trade Area of the Americas. A wall was erected around the city to stifle the people's movement. When a group of courageous individuals tore down sections of the wall, they had somehow acted "violently," justifying the deployment of 20,000 cannisters of chemical weaponry in the city.

Then a meeting of European leaders turned ugly in Sweden. Live ammunition was used and three people were shot, none fatally. A pattern was beginning to emerge, with the police upping the ante against a movement that refused to go away.

On July 20, 2001 in Genoa, Italy, Carlo Giuliani was shot and killed.

Call him a martyr. But Giuliani is less a martyr than a symbol. Dozens of people die at the hands of the state every week in the more oppressive nations on earth. But for some reason Carlo's death was different. To people in the sheltered and privileged societies of the West, it challenged to the core their understanding of "democracy."

Anyone who had ever protested an issue understood that it could have happened to them. Conspiracy theorists will say that Giuliani was shot for this very reason, to stifle the growing support for the new people's movement: if allegiance to corporate capitalism cannot be maintained through reason or gentle persuasion, a good dose of fear may be order.

State violence remains the ultimate mechanism for preserving the status quo. It is the last resort of the powerful in their war against popular empowerment.

The "anti-globalization" movement seeks to end corporate domination of the world's people and resources. It seeks co-operative community solutions to global problems. And it rejects the profit motive as the organizational principle of society. It is a revolutionary movement that fundamentally threatens the interests of the individuals and institutions that presently run the economy and reap the rewards.

Slave revolts have always been bloody. But the challenge of this movement is to achieve radical goals on the basis of a broad and hopeful consensus. When force is used against the movement citizens may respond in kind. But my vision of a brighter future doesn't involve clashes between police and protesters and more bodies piling up.

Armed with the memory of Carlo Giuliani, I am working toward the day when police officers throw down their guns and raise their fists in solidarity with their community.

This is what democracy looks like.

Got something to say? Bring your rant down to the Martlet in SUB b011 or e-mail it to martlet@uvic.ca. Pieces should be between four and six hundred words. Thank you.

Inside every cup of coffee

by Michelle French

WINNIPEG (CUP) – Walk into any gourmet coffee shop today and your eyes will behold a dizzying variety of specialty brews, blends, and flavours.

If you are a bargain hunter, take a stroll through your neighbourhood supermarket and admire the brands – and prices. With so much choice, there is little indication that coffee producers are in crisis. Yet coffee prices closed last week at 50 cents US per pound, a 30 year low spurred by a glut of coffee on the market. Almost all coffee producers are selling their crops below cost, and facing destitution as a result.

Central America has been particularly hard-hit by falling coffee prices and a severe drought. In Nicaragua and Guatemala thousands of small producers have marched to their respective capitals, demanding governmental aid. In Venezuela the crisis has led to large street protests. And in Mexico 300,000 coffee labourers have fled the countryside in search of American jobs.

In the meantime companies like Nestle and Starbucks are announcing record profits, charging more for a cup of coffee than ever before.

The price of coffee has been in decline since 1995 although the free fall began in earnest two years ago. Deborah James, spokesperson for San Francisco-based human rights organization Global Exchange, says that the decline in coffee prices is directly related to the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA), which set quotas on coffee production so countries could not undercut each other.

The ICA fell apart in 1989 in part due to the lobbying efforts of the International Coffee Association, an industry group heavily dominated by specialty coffee traders. At a time when the gourmet coffee industry was experiencing a rebirth in popularity, these traders felt constrained by quotas which restricted the production of gourmet arabica beans.

James also points to Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) in developing countries where international lending institutions granted loans and refinanced development debts on the condition that economic austerity programs, such as wide-scale government cutbacks, be adopted. Coffee marketing boards were quickly put on the chopping block.

According to James, marketing boards act as a buffer between farmers and the volatile commodity market. They guarantee a fair price for crops, and have the resources to weather bad years by holding stocks when prices are down and selling when they are up. Without these boards, many small-scale farmers around the world were put out of business.

James says that international financial institutions responsible for the dismantlement of marketing boards are responsible for the coffee glut and associated unemployment and social problems. Simon Harris, spokesperson at the Organic Consumers' Association, agrees.

"It sounds sinister but if you look at the policies of the World Trade Organization and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and all of these international financial institutions, ultimately they would like to see small scale farming replaced with big monocultural plantations because that's what's more economically viable. Of course, they're not going to say that, they are going to say that this is good for the countries' economies, but in the end they hurt everyone except for the multinational corporations," said Harris.

Take Nicaragua for example, where, according to James, financial institutions have called the government to heel.

In response to the outcry of desperate farmers and coffee-pickers the Nicaraguan government under President Arnoldo Aleman passed a moratorium on land foreclosures, forcing banks to provide debt-strapped farmers with an additional three months to find adequate financing.

In a show of what Jane interprets as the World Banks' veto power over client nations, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) – the Western Hemisphere's branch of the World Bank – pressured Aleman to cancel the bill. The IADB argued that governmental intervention would destabilize the finance sector, reducing bank and foreign investor confidence. With development anti-poverty loans in jeopardy, the president capitulated.

"This is a direct example of the World Bank's strategy to 'alleviate poverty' – which is supposed to be their mandate – while really protecting the finance sector at the expense of thousands of farmers who are now as we speak losing land," said James.

With the world de-regulation of the coffee industry, coffee production has increased at twice the rate as coffee consumption. This trend is expected to continue for the next five years, further depressing prices.

A recent report by Oxfam, a major development organization, concludes that the collapse of world coffee prices will benefit major players in the coffee industry - players like Philip Morris (owner of Kraft general foods), Nestle, Procter and Gamble and Sara Lee. Multinationals like these control more than 70 per cent of the world coffee market.

"Current trends in over-supply are clearly in the interest of the major players, who have conspicuously failed to pass on falling world prices to consumers [by lowering the price of a cup of coffee]," it concluded.

According to industry statistics, for every pound of coffee sold in the United States – varying in price from 2.69 for a 13 ounce can of Folgers to

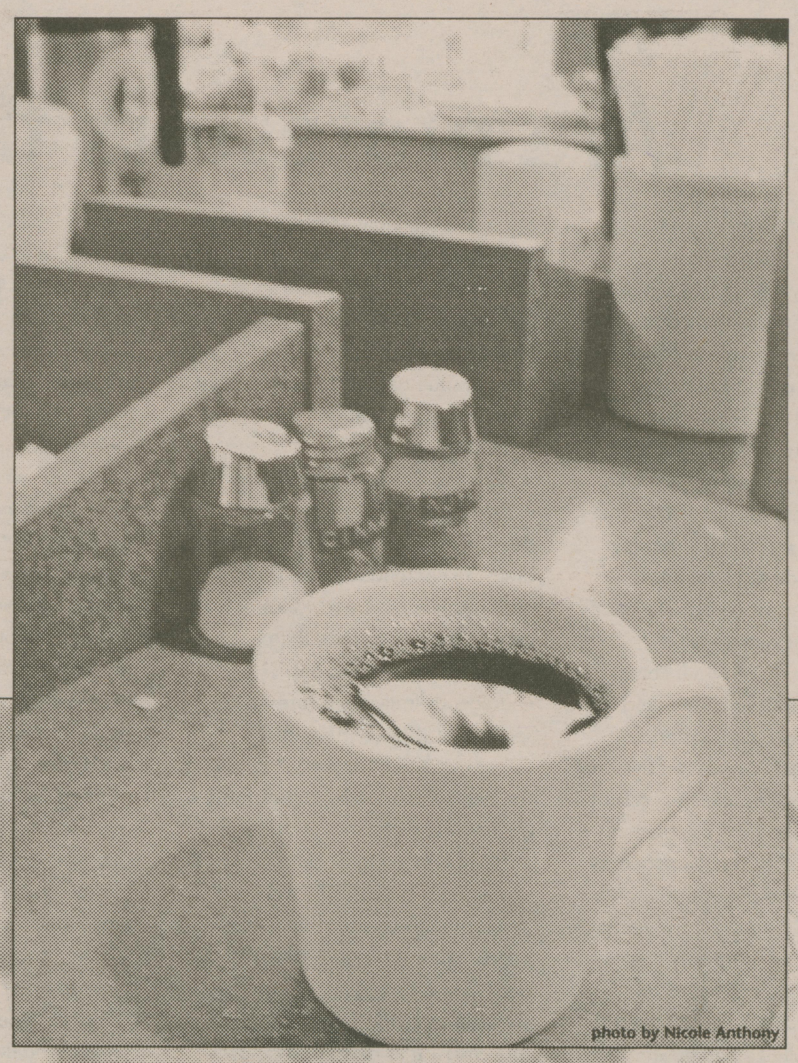

photo by Nicole Anthony

The world coffee glut is wreaking havoc on farmers around the world, while multinational coffee corporations are enjoying record profits

8.49 for a one-pound bag of Starbucks beans – farmers receive less than 35 cents and coffee pickers less than 14 cents.

The Oxfam report calls for immediate action to restrict supply.

It also suggests that the corporate sector needs to facilitate a more equitable trading environment, and calls on industry gurus to "emulate the model provided by [the principle of] fair trade."

The model is as follows: fair trade certification companies set up certain trading criteria and inspection protocols for the sale and trade of coffee beans, such as agreeing to pay a living wage to coffee producers, or to buy only from indigenous coffee co-operatives. Once these criteria are met the beans are packaged with a special certification label and sent to market, where conscientious consumers will support fair trade with their dollars.

The success of fair trade coffee initiatives, which first became popular in the late 1980s, have been mixed.

Currently, there are more than 300 coffee cooperatives in 18 countries benefiting from fair trade. Although sale of fair trade coffee in Canada has been positive, it has not hit the target of capturing five per cent of the market by the end of 2001.

Jason Potts is conducting research on the barriers to fair trade in North America in a joint project between the International Development Research Center and environmental group Equiterre.

He feels that governmental support could drastically improve sales of fair trade coffee.

"If the fair trade criteria are viewed as a way to internalize environmental and social sustainability in product development or product production, then there is a justification for having the government help these products to the market," he said.

Potts calls upon the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to acknowledge the benefits of fair trade – a move he says would vault certification credibility among importers and consumers.

Right now, anyone can call their product fair trade – which discourages businesses from buying into it and consumers from taking the label seriously.

"While some companies claim to pay over the minimum floor price of $1.26 per pound, there is no way for consumers to verify those claims unless the companies agree to independent monitoring by a third-party agency. Usually when companies say they pay more than $1.26 they're actually talking about what they pay the importer, or even what they pay the exporter – but unless it's Fair Trade Certified, the farmers are not getting the money," said Caroline Whitby, managing director of TransFair, Canada's fair trade certification agency.

Companies circumvent the label in order to avoid the higher premium paid to producers and the licensing cost of 36 cents, claiming they can monitor their producers without the financial and bureaucratic overhead of certification so more money can go to the producers.

Potts doesn't buy it.

"Some companies want to see all of the money going south. My counter argument is that there won't be any money going south if [fair trade] gets a bad rap."

According to Whitby, TransFair has recently adjusted the licensing fee in order to encourage more coffee importers to get certified.

Potts acknowledges that companies may be deterred from fair trade because they are required to offer advance payment to producers. He suggests that northern governments should follow the lead of Belgium and offer guaranteed government loans to offset this credit provision risk.

While Potts hopes to lobby the government for change, other public research groups try to increase market demand by raising consumer awareness and activism.

In Canada, Equiterre, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, and World University Service of Canada is campaigning to educate consumers and provide support for social justice groups who lobby the government, university administrations, unions and NGOs to support fair trade coffee.

Other campaigns go for the corporate jugular.

From September 17 to 23, the American-based Organic Consumers' Association will launch an international campaign to pressure Starbucks to increase the sale and availability of fair trade coffee.

"Only one tenth of one per cent [of coffee sold] is fair trade. We think this is an abysmal statistic," said Harris. Starbucks' fair trade coffee is not available in Canada.

Over 300 organizations in cities across the US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom, will distribute leaflets outside of retail outlets.

Starbucks began offering fair trade coffee for sale in bulk in October of 2000 in the US after Global Exchange began threatening to organize protests in 25 to 30 different cities. Last May, Starbucks brewed fair trade coffee as part of a promotional campaign.

Harris would like a substantive commitment from Starbucks to place fair trade in regular rotation, especially since the majority of their sales come from individual cups of coffee.

In light of the coffee crisis, Global Exchange has recently jumped on board the campaign.

"They aren't acting responsibly as a company. All they are doing is offering another product. Fair trade is not a flavour," said James.

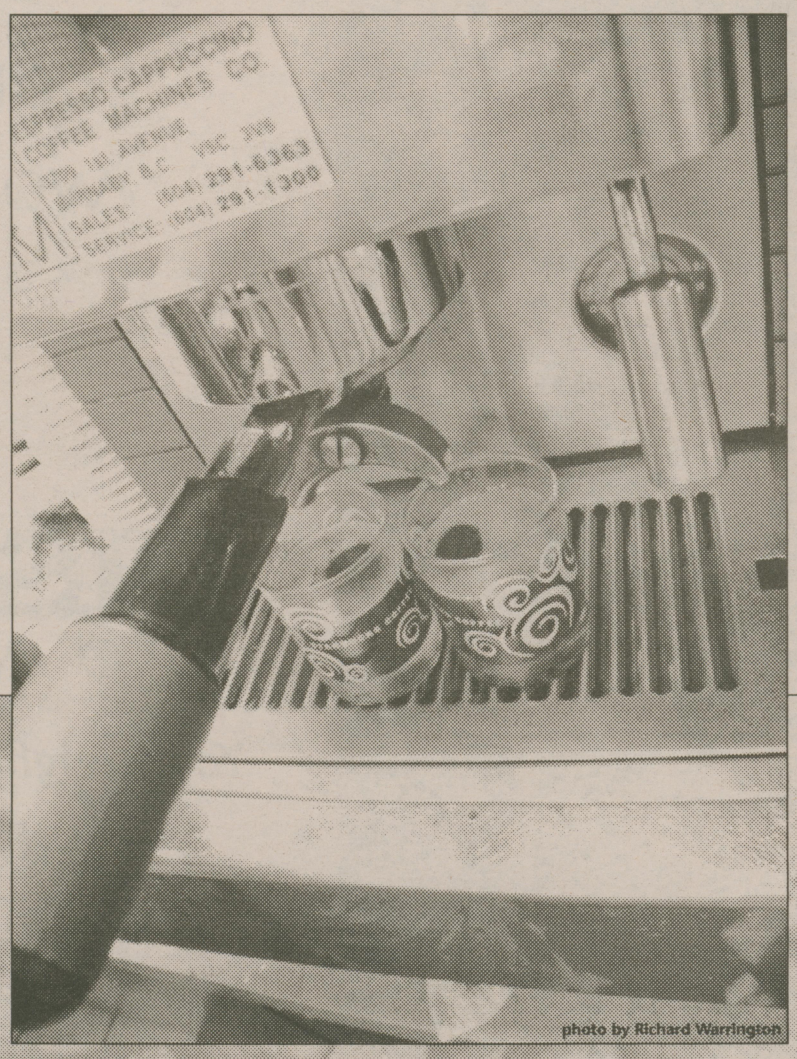

photo by Richard Warrington

photo by Richard Warrington

Consciousness – the root of theory

by Philosopher Ken

One of the very basic principles of quantum mechanics is that there is no 'objective' position or view; rather, we are 'participators in a participatory universe.' Our very presence and personality influences our investigation into any matter-science or otherwise. In a book self-published in 1997 called *Celestial Organics*, I wrote:

"Concerning the direction of modern physics, Dr. Fritjof Capra stated in the Tao of Physics, '...consciousness may be an essential aspect of the universe that will have to be included in a future theory of phenomena.'"

This is my starting point: not that consciousness must be included in a future theory of phenomena, but that consciousness is the source of theories of phenomena. It is the basis from which I begin my investigation. Prior to my learning of words, prior to my questioning, organizing and theorizing, I was conscious. I was born conscious. This is the human situation. There is no need to have to 'include' consciousness in a present or future theory as it has been (in) every theory. Through consciousness I experience and investigate what I am conscious of: life; world; being; myself.

This is an inescapable circumstance and points not to one person's mind or another's but to the very situatedness of being-at-all: the very fact of existing and existence. Capra's point then implies that no theory is 'complete' (conclusions invalid on the whole) without recognition of mind as 1) primary; 2) interrelated; and 3) mostly unknown.

In our day most sciences are in the business of anatomy, isolating and distinguishing between things to the point that they forget the connections they have and begun from. In a participatory, organic, energy universe this seems not only fragmentative but distractive. Our very language muddies the matter as if by pronouncing two 'different' words ('mind' 'body', 'here' 'there') we are saying different things. But this is the old 'two sides of the same coin' game and the coin in question is the whole universe itself in which everything manifest and potential is connected. There are many things – infinite things in infinite things – but ultimately there is one thing: the universe. We are all familiar with this but we breeze past it too soon and don't give enough thought, forgetting our connection. In this view: I=earth=solar system=galaxy=universe =energy=(same same same).

As we saw last week, David Bohm shows that all 'things' visible and material are derived and sustained by processes in the implicate, hidden universe – a subquantum order of infinitely creative potential. Consciousness has its source in the implicate and unfolds into the tangible – an insight to be noticed in the mysterious flow of our thoughts, and in the phenomena of sleep thresholds. Bohm denies the traditional separation of mind and matter, noting that these are not distinct but are subtleties of energy-matter which all arise from the implicate order. His understanding of the human mind is similar to Jung's 'collective unconscious', in that individual minds are connected to the whole of the species and deeper, into the total, and that human consciousness is actually ONE, manifested in each individual. Bohm pioneered Holographic theory and recognized that the brain works by holistic principles (every part contains and reveals the whole), and the universe itself is a kind of 'holo-movement' where every cell and atom contains/connects the whole of existence within the one universe that contains, sustains and reveals it all at once. It is one moving ocean with infinite waves, drops and depths of life. Bohm recognized beings/drops as 'sub-totalities.'

Martin Heidegger approached this view from another angle known as 'phenomenology,' and for him, what is is BEING. I translate this same as Life/Universe and recognize this in the ancient Hindu perception of life as 'suchness,' 'thatness,' and 'itness,' also a core insight of zen. Heidegger's questions penetrated back to the source, BEING, and came to the insight that BEING lets beings be. That beings are BEING being itself, revealing itself, articulating BEING, and that they reveal BEING in its presence/essence of concealment unconcealed. That BEING speaks to itself through itself, for itself.

This is an inversion of the ego-biased western philosophies and shows beings not as isolated entities but universal-localities. Small minds of the one, big MIND: BEING. This again is a core insight of zen and all religions have their version of this connection ('soul to god').

Maurice Merleau-Ponty expressed philosophy as "an attempt to explicate this BEING which we discover in our senses," this 'world within me within it.' He saw beings as a site, field and clearing of BEING, a place of open sensibility where BEING clarifies itself and interacts with itself in such a manner that we must understand relations between beings from the point of view of BEING. That is, understanding every drop, pool and stream as ocean.

With this perspective we gain age-old wisdom as an entirely new and creative viewpoint from which to think, act and live-seeing through BEING. Modern consciousness resides in separate/ego distinction, dividing everything, searching desperately for connection to god, oneness, universe or something. The view of mind presented here recognizes the primordial connection to everything already. I believe that 'separation' consciousness is the source of our many human 'ISMS' and problems. If I believe I am essentially disconnected from others, egoism, racism, sexism, classism and intolerances of all kinds surface and flourish, whereas if I truly recognize my primary connection to oneness and everything-everyone in it, how can the distance between you and me be greater than the true common source that ultimately binds us together?

We're organs of the whole we all know through that universal mode of existence we call consciousness. We are BEING alive. What meaning does that have for you?

image provided

Ken Rouleau wants your dissent just as much as he wants your assent. Send it here: zenrouleau@yahoo.com or mail the Martlet at martlet@uvic.ca. And send us submissions to the new Martlet science column (here)! Dammit!

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Zany partiers take over the SUB at Intrigue

by Sam Sternberg

Based on the success of last year's Grad Party we were welcomed back to our institution of education last week with a similar shindig in the hallways and corners of the Student Union Building.

Doors opened for the SUB Intrigue Party at 8:00pm and the first few bands wasted no time in kicking off a great night of musical extravaganza. A good lot was missed by all those fashionably late.

Solstix, an energetic Zimbabwean band from Victoria, started things off on the outer stage. As danceable as the music was, few ventured beyond toe-tapping.

Inside, listeners chilled out to the striking sounds of Angela Basombrio. Her voice is made for jazz and she can be often heard busking at the Victoria waterfront.

Run Chico Run were first to play in Vertigo but the lack of listeners didn't do them any justice. The band has been reduced to members Thomas Shields and Matt Skillings, though the music hasn't been compromised in any way. Their secret third member is said to have left them "for the dole."

And so as the night progressed the corridors became full, the dancers more courageous and the floors stickier.

The second and final band to play outside was Los Mariposas. This Cuban quintet was terrific.

As their last set was drawing to an end all that could be heard through the keen crowd was pleas for "one more!"

photo by Melissa Cook

Kellsie Forbes spins flames to wow the drunks.

This went on for at least 4 songs though I don't think the band minded at all.

Both Huevos Rancheros, whose front man was always grinning, jumping or both, and The Smugglers held the crowd's attention in Vertigo. People really got moving for The Smugglers' dance contests which rewarded those chosen as winnersr with a trophy or a box of wine.

Golden Wedding Band, formerly known as The Molestics, played some great sets.

"This world is a lot stranger than the entertainment that we're allowed to present," said frontman, Mike Soret.

The diversity of entertainment appreciated by Mathieu Lizotte, a 4th year disgruntled sociology major. He said he enjoyed "the various musical suites from jazz to techno to marimba to instrumental à la Huevos Rancheros."

The scene in the Michele Pujol room started out slowly, possibly a reaction to border problems which caused J Dub to cancel. As the night went on however, DJ Jody and Mr. Moe (aided by Lush Plush's visuals) drew a steady number of people who continued dancing after the lights came on.

Lapp Electro, led by Daniel Lapp, finished things off in the Upper Lounge. Described as "improvised house," the beats drew many into the small space to express themselves rhythmically.

And so it seems the Intrigue Party was a success. All sorts of people listening to all sorts of music and the occasional drink and slice of pizza.

I didn't expect to enjoy myself nearly as much as I did.

photo by Melissa Cook

DJ Sean Brawley shows the pearly whites during his set in the Michèle Pujol room.

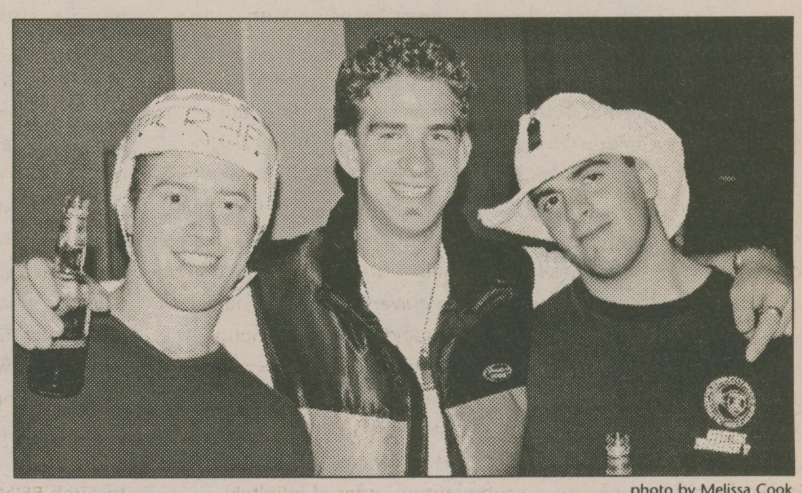

photo by Melissa Cook

Phil MaCracken's (left) mom wouldn't let him leave the house Friday without first putting on his protective headgear. Pals Andy Sails and Jorge Georgenson sample the fine fare.

photo by Melissa Cook

The Smugglers pack Vertigo and give away gift wrapped boxes of wine to the best dancers in the house.

arts arts arts
arts arts arts
arts arts arts

Cinecenta turns 30

by Nina Lidvea

Cinecenta is celebrating 30 years of infusing audiences with culture and craziness this month.

Mystery movies, free stuff and yaks are all part of the Fall anniversary event schedule.

"Cinecenta always tries to give viewers an eclectic choice," Michael Hoppe, programming manager said.

The face of the theatre's program for this month is proof of its continuing diversity. The cover is a noisy kaleidoscope of past Cinicenta calendars with hints of upcoming events within. A silent film, a mystery movie and a new foreign film are featured this month. Recently, *Nosferatu*, based on Bram Stoker's Dracula and backed by the sounds of local dj Friedegghead graced Cinecenta's silver screen. The classic horror flick, combined with its eerie soundtrack, made an irresistably creepy atmosphere on September 18. Hoppe said that the event will be the third time in Cinecenta's history that they've matched a dj with a silent film.

The calendar also advertises Himilaya, a new foriegn film playing October 12.

The film is about Tibetan culture and features breathtaking scenery, an exciting plot and, you guessed it, lots of yaks. Hoppe hopes it will be a hit with audiences.

"We're showing it for an entire week which is very rare," he said. Hoppe added that he hopes unique movies like Himilaya will make up for the not-so-great set of releases this summer.

As for the "mystery movie" coming up on October 23rd, it's so mysterious that not even the managers of Cinecenta know what it will be.

Cinecenta will give out free t-shirts, fridge magnets and postcards at movie showings during the anniversary month.

Cinecenta began in 1971 when 17-year old Doug Sprenger began showing films twice a week in what is now the David Lam auditorium in Maclaurin. He showed the movies on borrowed 16 mm equipment and they soon caught on. In 1975, Cinecenta moved into its current location. However, that was before the days of the Munchie Bar.

"Somebody would roll out a cart with an urn of coffee, raw apple juice and cookies," said Hoppe.

Thrity years later the theatre has 302 comfy seats and an expanded Munchie bar.

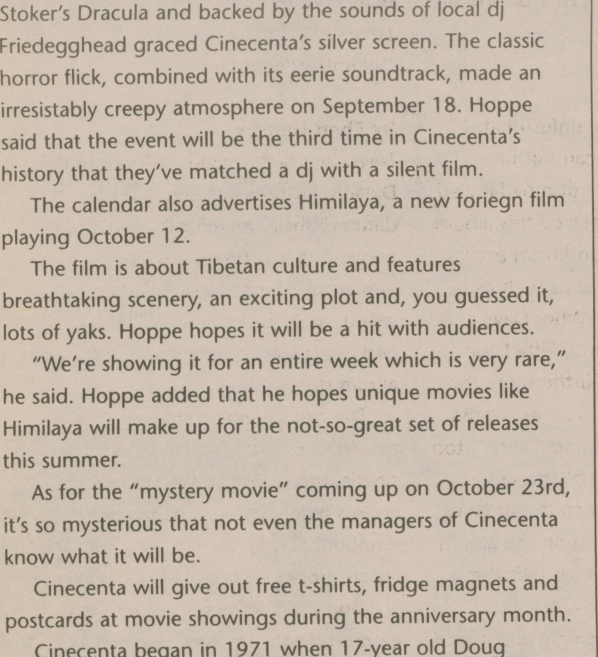

photo by Richard Warrington

Relaxation and reflection: time spent in the stalls

by Cate Montgomery

The Martlet typically reviews bands, books, art shows and theatre. This year we sent writers out to review washrooms and here's what they found.

Well hello there ladies! I have been taking some interesting notes this week. I've been visiting the ever so elite women's washrooms on our very own UVic campus. Any comments? Wipe the seats you dirty bitches!

Kidding.

There is always an unavoidable element of "sprayage." Some of us try ever so hard not to let our asses touch the public throne, just as our mothers taught us. However, some of us dare to say screw it! – it's only my ass. What can we do? In a university of thousands, most of whom are women, we motor from class to class, computer lab to campus pub... we lead busy lives, you know. And now and then we like to take a little time in the stall to ponder the oh-so many questions of life.

Which brings me now to the profound pieces of literature we find on our sacred stall walls. Or in our case, lack thereof! When I took on this article I was expecting to comically poke my head in and out of each toilet stall to, of course, find enlightening philosophies. I saw nothing of the sort. Women, where are our words? This may be because we are still in the preliminary stages of the school year. As well, the explanation may lie in the cliche: "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."

Can we not all agree with each other about the comic pleasure we get, or in the rare occasion the heartfelt fascination, from the writings on the walls?

This past weekend I stumbled into the toilet stall of Thursday's Bar and Bistro on Cook Street. A phrase that hit me was, "It's all about the girl who held her breath... Exhale."

Now maybe this affected me because being drunk makes me a tad more sentimental, reflective and perhaps quite pathetic, but but but... as I was zoning in on one word at a time I saw the statement below it, "Shut up you fucking diarrhea head!"

Though these phrases were not the speaking of revolution or vegetarianism, it is our silent debates and contrasting ideas on these public stall doors that serve as yet another medium of communication.

Now I must admit that most of the scriptures are not written with the deepest of meaning. It is not rare to see, "so-and-so plus so-and-so equals a love that is passionate and soul wrenching and blah blah forever."

Nevertheless, in the future they can be taken for what they are: memories, drunken memories and further obliterated memories...

I do realize that I have spent most of this article on the topic of public graffiti and the validation of the words on stall walls. Justifiable for an entire article? Debatable.

But, I will leave the ladies, women, womyn, girls and females with some (hopefully) common sense bathroom etiquitte.

1.) Please try to flush (there's really no need to further explain this plea).

2.) If you piss on the seat give it a courtesy wipe.

3.) Help those in need of a "slice." Bathroom time is that of relaxation and "drip-drying" can piss anybody off.

4.) If you do choose to write your profound thoughts on the washroom stall doors, can you please be aware of the women in line up holding onto their desperate and seeping bladders.

Now all of these tips could easily be regarded as quite anal retentive. It is true, we are in the washroom only as a chore, something that must be done because it is humanly mandatory. So then, do we really give a shit?

Hmmm...I believe indeed we do.

Little boys rooms still need improvements

by Tim Holloway

You can tell a lot about a man by where he goes. So why not discover the rich culture of UVic through its washrooms?

First of all, the only three places wheelchair accessible in the Clearihue building are on the first floor. In fact, just to reach the fourth floor – Greek, Roman, Italian, and Hispanic Studies – only the elevator located in the Women's Studies department (which does not have a washroom) can be taken. And, on days like last Sunday, when the doors to that department are locked, a separate trip to the second floor is necessary to catch the elevator at the other end of the building. So, we know where those who steer should fear to tread – at least if they ever need to go.

Oddly enough, a trip downstairs via the elevator across from the doors to the Computer Store will take you to a washroom unmarked as wheelchair accessible but with a stall possibly large enough to accommodate your ride.

The History Department's stall on the second floor has the most grafitti in all of Clearihue, Elliot, and the Engineering buildings. But the best is found in the basement of MacPherson Library in the middle stall. Inside the sixth of the 11 yellow stalls (one of which is accessible, another which lacks a toilet or tissue dispenser) is penned on the wall a small tombstone in memory of the victims of the World Trade Centre attacks. This is accented by an adjacent sticker of what resembles Ronald McDonald with a bloody cleaver and says "Your unhappy meal is ready to go."

By far the cleanest washrooms are found on the bottom floor of the Cadboro Commons building (the res cafeteria for those who actually go there). Stylish wallpaper, stony-finished stalls, and superior lighting all give a business ambience to your matters. And it, too, is accessible.

If you're looking for a good deal, tampons and maxi pads are available for 10 cents each at the unisex facilities in the Pheonix Theatre.

This is accented by an adjacent sticker of what resembles Ronald McDonald with a bloody cleaver.

Our Student Union Building lacks only one thing: an accessibility sign on the men's washroom door downstairs, but all washrooms in the building are accessible (save perhaps Cinicenta's, which was unavailable for inspection). On the main floor the unisex accessible washroom even has a baby change station for mothers and fathers.

On the other hand, the third floor washroom of the Elliot building is labeled accessible but the two stalls inside are barely large enough for someone porting a backpack, never mind a wheelchair.

The Engineering Lab Wing also considers women in giving them one more washroom than men on each floor. The design of each washroom is identical save the location of towel dispensers, making all washrooms wheelchair accessible.

Speaking of towel dispensers, it seems only the most often-used washroom, nearest the computer labs in Clearihue, lacks one. Usually, when it's busy there, guys skip the dryer and go straight for the door. Maybe saving trees is worth exiting the washroom with the slime of many men on-hand, eh?

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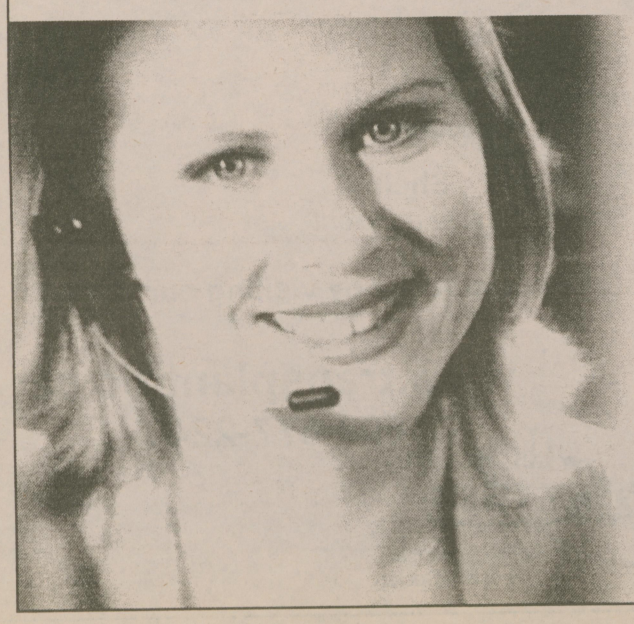

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Is that it??

A reflection on summer movie melancholy

by Käthe Lemon

The wages of sin are death, and the price of admission is boredom in movie theatres this summer.

Disappointment followed disappointment and each ticket purchase came to represent an unfulfilled leap of faith. There were a few glimmers of cinematic mastery – *The Others*, *Shrek*, *O*, *Crazy/Beautiful* – where a smart script, great actors, beautiful cinematography and astute editors all came together. But these were few and far between. Other than these, the few movies that I enjoyed were the ones I had little or no expectation of (*A Knight's Tale*, *Legally Blonde*). But I don't want to lower my expectations all the time.

The biggest problem with this summer's film menu was a shocking lack of originality – even for Hollywood.

Exhibit one, old films in new disguises: *The Fast and the Furious* wasn't even a great film the first time they made it when it was called *Point Break*, but at least then it had the eternally charming cheesiness of Keanu "I am an F.B.I. agent" Reeves. And what do you get when you take Indiana Jones, add boobs and a British accent, and take away brains? Voila, Lara Croft, *Tomb Raider*. *Hackers* met *Die Hard* semi-successfully in *Swordfish*. And *Summer Catch* was yet another *American Pie* rip off with some baseball and class angst thrown in.

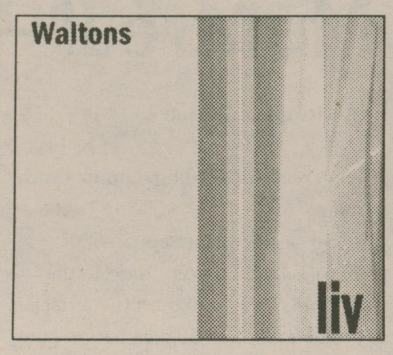
Exhibit two, sequels: I did enjoy the second helping of *American Pie*, but could have done without yet another *Jurassic Park*. Once you've made dinosaurs look real, how thinly can you stretch the plot before people stop going? The only real surprise in this film was that the stars would get involved with it. The unlived life is not worth examining – a lesson Kevin Smith should have heeded before he made the retrospective *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*. This 90 minutes of cinematic navel-gazing was probably the last film Smith can make with the same cast (just judging by the grimaces on some of their faces). No statement on *Scary Movie 2*.

Exhibit three, based on real life/a book/a video game: the summer was full of stolen plot lines and characters. If you are going to base a film on a real life event that everyone knows about then use some original plot twists in the fictionalized parts. This seems to be too much to ask of the writers of *Pearl Harbor*, and the editor who let the ra-ra America monologue get in should be fired. However, the major crime of *Pearl Harbor* is that it will most likely win awards. *Blow* did: this film based on a real life drug dealer was manipulative and at the end very mean spirited, but perhaps I'm just bitter about the first-year psych Freudian explanation that it was all his mother's fault. Also under this category the passable *Bridget Jones* and the terribly terrible long Pinocchio-inspired *AI*. The wish of the main character to be a boy was a reflection of the director's desire to make the audience care about his characters: unfortunately neither gets his wish.

Exhibit four, almost there but not quite: A lot of this summer's films got half-way to an original thought and then stopped. *Moulin Rouge* for example was a great experiment in using the techniques of music video in a feature-length movie. I'm not even complaining about the old songs reinvented for this new musical. However, the pop music lyrics as script was a little too much for me. And was I the only one who noticed that it was one story told three times? *Final Fantasy* was another okay movie, but most of the work clearly went into the computer graphics, with a lot of look-what-we-can-do scenes of characters' hair blowing in the wind. And poor *American Sweethearts* suffered from all-the-good-parts-are-in-the-preview syndrome.

Looking back at these films and the many others that filled screens but not seats this summer, you start to notice how many there were. With so many theatres and so little time it is probably no wonder that almost no thought seems to go into many of the scripts. Maybe I'm expecting too much for the price of admission.

CD REVIEWS

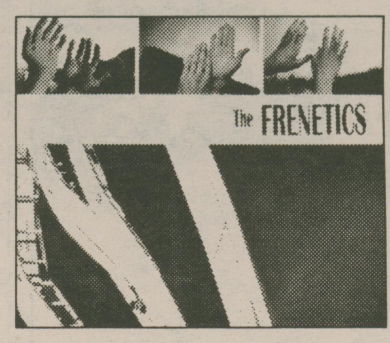


Waltons
Liv
2001 MapleRecordings

by Simon Glezos
The Waltons used to be the darlings of the prairie music scene. They are a Regina foursome bringing together a surprisingly original and lively mix of rock, folk and country music. They used to be relatively popular and you probably heard their music on the radio or might have seen them open for 54-40 or the Barenaked Ladies. However, problems with their label and differing interests eventually led to the group's de facto, if not official, dissolution. However, in recent years a call for the band's music, coupled with the difficulty of finding any of their previous albums, resulted in their brief reformation to record 'Liv.' It's a live album covering the big hits off of their three previous albums as well as a few new songs and a cover or two.

The recordings are good and pleasantly free of the tinniness that seems to accompany a lot of live albums. The band itself is in solid form, seeming unaffected by their hiatus and playing with passion and vigor, as if they'd be doing nothing but jamming in their time off. Their versions are pretty straightforward retellings of old material, so if your looking for any hip-hop remixes or hour-long Hendrix-like guitar solos, you're pretty much out of luck. Indeed, if you have the Waltons' last couple of albums, you probably don't really need this one.

Though, of course, that's the point, isn't it? If you had all their past albums they'd be rich and famous and not broken up and obscure. But you don't, do you? You haven't heard the bittersweet lyrics of "Colder than You" or the joyous harmonies of "Naked Rain." Heck up until now you probably didn't even realize that your life was missing Jason Plumb's inventive vocal harmonies or Todd Lumley's rockin' accordion solos (yeah, I never thought I'd say those words either). So do yourself a favour, go pick up a great band's last hurrah and then feel guilty for not supporting them when they were still around. Remember: all good artistic endeavours should be at least tinged with pain.



The Frenetics
These mistakes took years of practice
Union Label Group

by Julia Smith
The Frenetics have the unfortunate sound of a band that can not be labeled in type but can also be labeled as almost any type. I played this album for numerous friends and from each got unrelated comparisons such as, Spirit of the West, The Who, Dave Mathews, Mathew Good, Fifty Four Forty, and Blink 182. Furthermore their home page describes them as a cross between brit punk and indie rock. I too cannot place them but at the same time cannot give them credit for being unique either. Each song on the album sounds like the one before with the same beat and tone.

The lyrics are surprisingly poetic and intriguing. This is perhaps how the band earned their reputation for indie rock. Unfortunately, it is hard to have patience with any band that has no musical ingenuity.

Spiritualized
Let it come down
Spaceman Records

by Julia Smith
At first I didn't like the album, and then I did, and then I didn't, and then I did, and then...

Jason Pierce, the lead singer, reminds me of Jacob Dylan of The Wallflowers. Similarly, he almost has a rusty edge to his voice but musically falls short. Consequently, flat becomes a better descriptor than rusty. However, unlike Jacob Dylan he seems to realize this inadequacy and has surrounded himself with many great musicians and vocalists (over 100 contributed to this album). He has utilized these resources creating a very versatile album ranging from jazz, to gothic to gospel. It has some unexpected moments of really good listening.

So, do I recommend you rush out to buy it when it is released on September 25? From one broke student to another, I wouldn't suggest paying the usual 15 to 20 bucks. But check out Lyle's Place in a few months. Perhaps it will surface as a very worthwhile five dollar special.

Bob Dylan
Love and Theft
Columbia Records

by Eben Hensby
Love And Theft, the 43rd album of Bob Dylan's illustrious career, is very different from anything he has done previously. It combines elements from numerous music styles including swing, rock, blues, jazz, and bluegrass and is arguably his most widely-ranged album musically.

The lyrics work on numerous levels, ranging from straight-forward to more poetic, more allusive language. He evokes many images and many emotions. The album is unique as Dylan drops in the occasional comic line and then comes along with an extraordinarily powerful line that accurately captures a mood, experience or thought.

But the music and the lyrics alone don't make up the magic of this album. On Dylan's last album, *Time Out Of Mind*, he used a lot of production. This time, producing himself, he lets his voice sound through as naturally as possible.

The effect is wonderful. His voice, raspy as ever, adds much to the power of the lyrics. He's a master of phrasing and it shows.

Suddenly the words mean more than just what they say, they mean what they sound as well. With their overall impact, songs like "Mississippi" and the bluegrass-influenced "High Water" are as good as anything Dylan has written.

While *Time Out Of Mind* gave him three Grammies, it wouldn't be at all surprising if this album earns Dylan at least one more.

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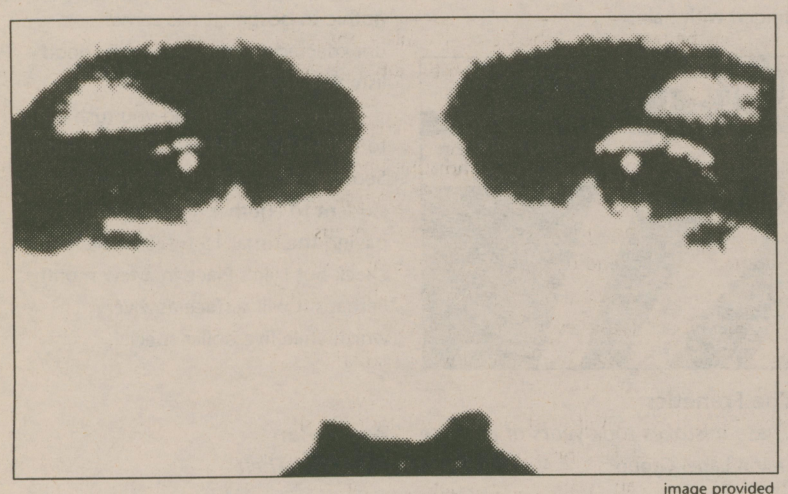

image provided

by Julia Smith

Thandweni Where the Ghosts Scream
written and performed by Erik de Waal

Nothing gives me goose bumps more than watching two invisible people make love on the blood red sands of Africa.

Erik de Waal's gently accented voice leads his audience through many such eerie scenes in this one act, one actor, story-telling production of *Thandweni Where the Ghosts Scream*, at the Vancouver Fringe Festival last weekend.

De Waal admits his stories are strongly influenced by the traditions of his native land South Africa, but also hope they carry familiar themes for all.

"They are based on African mythology but are still a universal stories," he said.

His point is well illustrated in the first story which is a mix of French folklore, the fairytale of sleeping beauty and a Greek myth. De Waal said North American audiences seem to enjoy and appreciate his productions, but he has to be careful.

"I can only use about four traditional African names or people get lost," he said.

For most North Americans Thandweni (tand-wen-y) is probably hard enough to get their tongues, and ears, around.

Thandweni, place of love, and place of death, is a mystical place of memory, he explained. A man kills to save a love story, the daughter of the moon is solidified by the love of a hunter, a man's tongue is cut out so he can't save his lover with words, and invisible people make love as a jealous storyteller watches.

De Waal incorporates one story within another, developing a coherent plot and theme of love which ultimately ends in death. His stories unfold with his guiding voice, creating a setting on an empty stage, multiple characters in a one-man show and an artful dialog.

His voice is clear and powerful and he engages his audience with a presence not limited to the stage.

Warren Hamilton, an audience member, gives De Waal credit.

"I liked it," he said. "Especially for a one man show." He added that the African influence is very different from the typical.

Alison McLuckie, an audience member from South Africa, agreed. "You can really see the influence of traditional South African storytelling," she said.

The difference lies in the passionate bitter theme of the cycle of love and death. The stories are neither happy nor sad and like traditional African stories there is no set and one man plays the part of many.

Not all De Waal's work is so passionate. He also performs for children and school groups.

This work he describes as, "The same stories but no sex."

Unfortunately it's too late to catch De Waal in Vancouver but keep your eyes open for him at future Fringe Festivals.

Montréal – a day in the life

by Christopher Schuetze

I hadn't really noticed how drunk I was getting.

It did become quiet apparent, however, when I got up to go to the washroom. I was sitting on the terrace of the famous Saint Sulpice bar on Rue St. Denis with a table of Anglos. I had become totally absorbed in the usual inane chatter that accommodates drinking pitchers of beer (topics like Mike Harris, George Dubya and the latest Woody Allen flick, etc).

We could have easily been sitting at Felicitas or the Bent Mast, thus, I was all the more shocked when upon getting up I realized that I was amongst hundreds of tables all of which were occupied by Francos (discussing as I imagined Edith Piaf, Jean-Paul Sartre and de Gaulle).

This is one of the many amazing aspects of Montreal. Montreal is home to millions of people of hundreds of different nationalities. As an Anglo McGill student, the kids that I have come into contact with most often are the Anglo McGill or Concordia students. Also, having lived with my sister and her French boyfriend in a working-class neighbourhood I came into contact with a Montreal that is purely French. Most of his friends, colleagues and neighbours do not understand more than a sentence of English. Montreal is not so much a bilingual city as it is a city of two languages. Of course this is a gross simplification. There are many more languages spoken and many neighbourhoods that speak mostly a non-official Canadian language.

Montreal is not so much a bilingual city as it is a city of two languages.

In the whole of Montreal, English is spoken much less than one might assume. There are the neighbourhoods of old Anglo wealth. Notre Dame de Grace (NDG) and Westmount are two preferred candidates. If you're lucky enough to visit the mall on Atwater you could be mistaken into thinking that you are in Oakridge in Vancouver. The sales people sound as Anglo as the kid from Toronto or Vancouver. The only thing that gives away the fact that you are in Québec are the signs which are either in French or in both languages. This is an interesting phenomenon about Montreal on the whole. You don't know what language people in a given establishment speak (this could be anything from a nightclub to a clothing store) before you hear the first word out of an employees mouth.

The servers seem to know only two orders: the smoked meat sandwich and the giant Ben's smoked meat sandwich.

The entire Anglo infrastructure of the city – one newspaper that makes the Times Colonist look like the New York Times, several television stations and a myriad of radio stations – seems to be geared mostly to those who reside in those rather posh areas. There are many other Anglo areas of course. The one that I am most familiar with, the place where Anglo students live, eat, drink, study and dance (not necessarily in that order), is the McGill Ghetto. It's ten blocks of overpriced, under-serviced student living mostly dominated by Ontarians and West-coasters. If you happen to run into a French accent on that turf you can count yourself very lucky. The drinking and dancing are done mostly on the nether regions of Boulevard Saint Laurent with its Anglo bars and nightclubs. There are people, who for the purpose of this article we shall call ghetto brats, who have lived in Montreal five years and don't speak a word of French. It is not necessarily arrogance on their part; it is the fact that one can live such an interesting, swinging life as an Anglo student in Montreal without having to speak the language.

Writer Russell Smith best describes the situation (as well as mocks all of us going to Montreal for its frenchness), when one of his characters talks about how every Anglo student who goes to Montreal means to learn French, even signs up for French courses, but because it is so much easier, they end up sitting in the cafes smoking Gauloises.

The Robson street like strips, such as St. Catherine or Crescent Street, which are the gathering place for the beautiful, the conceited and the truly superficial, are largely bilingual. Though on the whole one does tend to hear more Anglo conversations. Although they are easy to dismiss, it is on these streets that one realizes that Montreal is more than just a big North American city. It's like any posh street in many cities, except that the chic boutiques there are über-chic. Not only can one buy the latest designer wares, one might be lucky enough to sneak a peek at the designer herself.

Only a ten-minute walking distance east from the student ghetto, you find yourself in the deepest Francophone region. From personal experience I know that you can walk into a bistro on St. Denis and find that out of ten people running the place (waitresses and waiters, bartenders, and managers), only one will be able to understand and to communicate in English. It is not, as I have heard suggested, that the Francophone Québecois dislike speaking English (God knows I wouldn't mutter a word of English in this city if my French were good enough). The Francophone Québecois, being Canadians, are as polite and helpful as the rest of us. The fact is that many of them don't speak English and actually have very little need to. Actually there is very little resentment and most people will do their darndest to have a conversation with you in whatever language works best.

Obviously Montreal isn't that simple. There are many other Anglo areas that have nothing to do with the west of Canada and intrusion of a culture. There is, for example, Ben's Deli – a place so real that one could write entire novels based just on it. The average age of the waiters there is about 65. They all seem to have worked on that old fifties linoleum floor for the better parts of their lives. They seem to know only two orders: smoked meat sandwich and the giant Ben's smoked meat sandwich. Not a word of French is spoken in that dinning hall. You either like smoked meat sandwiches, gruffy waiters and English or you wouldn't choose to eat there. This is the Montreal of Mordecai Richler. This Montreal doesn't have much to do with Anglos or Francos. And nobody seems to be surprised by anything. As a matter of fact this is how most Montreal natives (regardless of whether they're Francophone or Anglophone) seem to deal with the city of many cultures and interesting language dynamics. One learns very quickly to live in one's own chosen places and one doesn't much mind anyone around - typical big city living.

Chris Schuetze is a UVic student visiting at McGill.

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Loss of innocence for whom?

by Emmanuel Raymundo

The Martlet received a deluge of mail and opinion pieces after the tragedies in the US earlier this month. We found this one so provocative we put it on a page of its own. We tried to publish everything we received on the letters and op-ed pages because an event like this deserves a lot of voices and consideration. Thank you.

"TERROR" the headlines all read: Or "A Day of Infamy." The television news broadcasts proclaim "America Under Attack." Terror – I am afraid – is not a new experience for many people living here in North America, especially for racialized people, brown and black people, women, gays and lesbians. Despite living in the "free world" and in a bastion of democracy, anyone who is made to feel different or those who are made to feel like they don't quite belong already live in a constant state of terror.

Recently I went to the Philippines on a research trip. The trip was special because I had not been there for a visit in 13 years. As well this was the first trip back to the Philippines on my own, as an adult, without my parents. As exciting a proposition as the trip was, it was also an occasion to elicit unspoken fears and anxieties. Would I be ambushed and taken hostage at the airport tarmac by rebel guerilla groups? Would I get sick from the water and the food? Preparing to return to the Philippines was an exercise in terror. To live "here" (proudly colonia Victoria, multicultural and tolerant Canada or next door the world's greatest democracy) is also an exercise in terror.

Looking back – now that I have returned to Canada from the Philippines – I can see that I was never in danger. In the Philippines, I stayed with an affluent aunt who lives in a gated community. I was surrounded by a network of aunts, uncles, cousins and close family friends who attended my every need and desire. More importantly, these people made me feel like I belonged, like I had every right to be there with them. I felt wanted. I felt safe. All of these things are material luxuries and, more importantly, emotional and psychological privileges that I simply do not have and cannot have in Canada.

Here in Canada I am no more immune to acts of random violence than anywhere else in the world, including parts of the world deemed as "dangerous," parts of the world labeled as the "Third World;" places like the Philippines. As a racialized hyphenated and naturalized Canadian, as a gay man, the potential threat of physical violence always looms near; it is always already a possibility. Psychological trauma and mental assault – emerging from negative stereotypes to racial slurs – are a daily reality of my existence (and the existence of many other people). It is part and parcel of who I am.

For those people who already live in terror in this place (that is supposed to be safe, clean and impenetrable) there are several ways to look at last week's events. The spectacular crash of the World Trade Centre is proof for everyone else (white people, the rich, those who don't want to pay attention or any combination of those people) that this place was never safe, clean and impenetrable to begin with. The sterile and bureaucratized order of "our" lives – from "our" workplaces to "our" streets to the blue-recycling boxes on "our" curbs outside "our" homes – has come at the expense of disorder in the lives of millions of other people in other parts of the world (as well as marginalized and oppressed peoples within "our" own borders). The "peace" and "innocence" of life here is no more natural than daily war and violence, poverty and social strife in other parts of the world. But not all of "us" were ever truly innocent. When the newspapers and television broadcasts scream "TERROR!" and lament "the loss of innocence," they are perhaps referring to the terror of the rich and the privileged, the loss of innocence for white people, the baptism into a new reality for a privileged lot – a reality steeped in being afraid, being suspicious, living in terror.

The sterile and bureaucratized order of "our" lives...has come at the expense of disorder in the lives of millions of other people in other parts of the world (as well as marginalized and oppressed peoples within "our" own borders).

For people who never believed that this place was safe (many black and brown people, women, gays and lesbians), last week's events serve to fan the flames of terror inside us. On the political level, there are fears of being further racialized and marginalized as "outsiders," as potential terrorists (especially people of Arab descent) in the racist white imagination. (You will recall that Arab terrorists were suspected to be behind the Oklahoma City bombing; it was later discovered to be Timothy McVeigh, an American disgruntled with the government).

Many wait anxiously to see how the US government will retaliate. Instead of engaging in a reflection on the root causes of social disparity that motivates such horrific acts of violence, terrorism and animosity against America, it is perhaps more realistic to expect an increase in the display of repressive American military might. As a friend pointed out, the current Bush administration has displayed unrelenting insularity on global issues having walked out of the Kyoto environmental talks and boycotting last week's Durban conference on racism.

On a personal level stemming from the political, the terror within us expands. With every booming sound and crash I hear, I have to remind myself that the neighbours down the street are doing major home renovations.

The army is not coming for me. But they could.

That is the beauty of my terror. I am always implicated because the fact that I don't matter nor truly belong is also what makes me amongst the most expendable. Imagine determining to build a life of dignity, value and worth against those feelings on a daily basis. Sometimes, it feels like a building has collapsed on top of you and you are the only who can pull yourself out of the rubble. It's an exhausting proposition to go through every day.

How do I feel about last week's events? I feel divided.

Schizophrenic.

Terrorism is an evil act that hurts and kills innocent people. There should be a coordinated international effort to stamp out this insidious form (and all other types) of warfare. We should all strive to promote peace.

I am addicted to the warm glow of the television showing the pictures of those airplanes going through those towers and, like a magic trick gone wrong (or executed correctly – I am not sure), not coming out of the other side.

I was born in Manila but raised in New York City. I remember walking around the World Trade Centre complex with my parents. So long as it was sunny, regardless of the time of day, the "Twin Towers" (a moniker I never personally liked and always found corny) would cast a long shadow on the streets and buildings surrounding it. "If that falls," pointing a finger from the top of one of the towers, craning my neck backwards and squinting my eyes to protect it from the harsh light of day, "it would crush things all the way down there." I could never locate exactly where because the shadow cast was so long. I could only point "all the way down there." As an adult trying to live and grasp for air in a white supremacist capitalist patriarchy (yes – even here in Canada), I know that the shadow of steel and concrete, the shadow of "America," the shadow of terror is inside of me.

With last week's bombings the shadow is here too. Now it is inside of you as well. (But even then, in your case, you can point to an event, a day, a date you can circle with a red marker on your calendar in your kitchen and say "that was the day everything changed" or "that was the day my life changed." I cannot do the same. I have no pictures, there are no witnesses for the day everything changed for me or the day my life was changed. I only have myself and really, that's never going to hold up in any court of law.)

"Welcome."

I want to give you a housewarming gift because you are now my new neighbour.

"Welcome."

But I do not think you want anything that I have to give because my whole life – this I know, of this I am sure – is spent trying to get rid of everything you have ever given me (and things that I have taken because I thought I wanted to be just like you). I may not even have time to go through the rubble to figure out what's really mine and what's yours. First New York, then Paris, Rome, maybe Berlin. I would save London for last.

I wish I were on a street corner in New York – far enough from the World Trade Centre to escape melting steel encasing my skin, but close enough to pick through the rubble of office files, corporate training manuals, the frozen LCD screens of Palm Pilots and investment portfolios that flood the streets to put together a found poem:

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Women set to dominate b-ball

by Ruth Knoop

photo by Richard Warrington

Vikes in action in 2000/2001 season.

Fresh faces to a fresh new season is the best way to describe the 2001-2002 Vikes Women's Basketball team. After an exciting 2000-2001 season, where they finished first in the Canada West Division, and fifth at the Nationals, this year's team has decided to reinvent themselves, not only with new players, but a new coach as well.

Brian Cheng will replace Kathy Shields, presently on a professional development leave, as Head Coach. Cheng previously spent five years as the Vikes assistant coach under the direction of Shields, and eagerly anticipates the up coming year as head coach.

"It is a tremendous honour and a privilege to be able to lead the team this year in her absence."

Along with Shield's departure are veterans Johanna Holdsworth, Kim Johnson, and Emily King who graduated last year. Two-time MVP; Lindsay Brooke has also left the court to adorn the sidelines as the new assistant coach.

With the departure of so many veteran players, one would be quick to characterize this season as one of rebuilding, but Coach Cheng does not share that view.

"Yes, we have lost five players but we have brought in a lot of new people: we have brought in good players."

Returning to the court is guard Lindsay Anderson. Nominated last season for a first team Canada West All-Star, Anderson is expected to lead the team this season. Most of her off-season was spent in China with the Student Games team, where she played a large role in the team's sixth place finish and triumph over the USA team. Newcomer Jania Mynott, of North Surrey, is another player to watch out for. As a member of the provincial under 19 team, Mynott helped lead her team to a first place victory at this year's Canada Summer Games.

Cheng's goal this season is not placement, but "to find an identity early on, and from there we can move forward." As part of the Pacific Division, the Vikes definitely have their work cut out for them this year. Rival teams this season are lower mainland teams from UBC and SFU. However, Cheng emphasizes that their success will not be measured by placement but by striving for excellence. He wants the team to reach a level of championship calibre play. "We are focussed on processed goals, not end product goals."

Faster men's Vikes

by Ruth Knoop

Halifax, Nova Scotia, watch out. The University of Victoria Vikes, Men's Basketball team has high hopes for their visit to you later this season want to return to Victoria as the CIS National Champions.

Although still in the pre-season, Vikes head coach Guy Vetrie is looking forward to the upcoming regular season.

"We had a tremendous last season," Vetrie said.

Last year the team finished first in the Canada West, and made it to the Nationals. However, the road to victory has several potholes that the team must overcome.

The graduation of stars Jamie Blake, and Ali Wilmott will leave a dent in the teams scoring and defensive positions, as will the sudden departure of the 2000-2001 Canada West Rookie of the Year, Chris Trumpy, to an NCAA team in Southern California.

Despite the losses, Vetrie isn't worried.

"This years team will be faster than the past few seasons," he said. "The athletic ability of the squad has definitely improved." Returning players include Canada West All-Star, swing Keith Bustard, and 6'8" forward Sandy Bisaro will certainly help the team.

An additional player to the team, who one should keep a close eye on, is Montreal's Shaun Doherty who's considered to be one of the best point guards from the Quebec Junior College league. Doherty's skill and experience will undoubtedly benefit the team's play and scoring. Also from Quebec is new forward Trevor Thomas, who comes to UVIC after three years of college play. Rounding out the rookies is Orland Ferguson. This 6'5" player joins the team in the position of swing.

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The team conducted individual fitness training and team competition in the off season and the team was able to sharpen pre-season play when they travelled to Taiwan for the Jones Cup. The Vikes finished in the middle of the field at the tournament which was stacked with professional teams.

The Vikes first home game will be October 11, 2001 against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Life, sand and beach volleyball

by Iain McLetchie

Sand is covering my entire upper body. It's in my nose, my ears, my eyes – everywhere. All I really want to do at this point in time is jump into the ocean and cleanse myself of all these irritating particles. Unfortunately I'm in no position to do so, as my partner Brett informs me by screaming loudly in my general direction.

"Come on! Come on! It's up!"

I stumble wildly to my feet and lurch toward the general vicinity of his voice, my arms waving crazily in a blinded attempt to make contact with the volleyball Brett has just dug up. Alas, my efforts prove to be in vain, as I lose my balance and crash back down into the sand. My eyes are still watering from the foreign particles which chafe my eyeballs.

As Brett and our competition do their best to hold back from chortling viciously at my ineptitude, I try to cover as best as possible. "Sand's in my eyes," I mutter. "Can't see a thing." Yeah, right.

You see, after more than a few summers worth of busting my arse tree planting in Northern B.C., I finally decided to forget about making loads of money in the summer and instead to enjoy the lifestyle that the Garden City affords one in the summertime. With that goal in mind, and being a volleyball player of small repute, I felt that entering a beach tournament would be a fantastic opportunity to meld all the components of my perfect summer day: beach, ball and beautiful, uhhh, seascapes. A willing partner was found in my buddy Brett and together we voyaged across the Georgia Strait to the wonderful port city of Vancouver.

As I was to pick up a friend's beater VW Rabbit later on in the weekend, we were without a car until after the tournament. This wasn't to be a problem, so I thought, until we managed to miss the connecting bus from Broadway Street to Spanish Banks and were forced to voyage the rest of the way solely on foot power. Undaunted by this slight misuse of time and energy, we arrived at the courts and soon found ourselves warming up for our first match.

Now for those of you who have never ventured onto a beach, let alone a beach volleyball court, let me quickly digress. Volleyball is a sport that, when played properly, requires an ability to quickly react and move in different directions. Sand is a granular substance that impedes the quick and powerful muscular motions the sport of volleyball requires. So it would seem that the two main components of beach volleyball are about as similar to each other as high fashion to golfers.

As such, many hours of training are necessary before the indoor player is capable of moving correctly on the sand. In the case of Brett and me, those necessary hours of training were foregone and we chose to play like elephants in quicksand for the first couple of games. Needless to say, we lost our first two matches to finish dead last in pool play and thus were relegated to the ignominy of the consolation side of the draw.

Aside from the shame of going winless and looking pathetic in the process, the consolation side of the draw proved to be quite amenable to us. For one thing, we were given a two-hour break to rest our over-stressed leg muscles and severely bruised egos. Secondly, the nets on our new courts were lower than on the main courts; a feature that proved handy for our long limbs.

Suddenly we were gods! Our spikes actually traveled in a downward trajectory; our serves seemed to drop and catch the back line instead of phasing out the back; and we were moving like ballerinas toward every ball. The magic was suddenly there and we took full advantage of it, cruising through the lower end of the tournament like Jeff Gordon on the I-5. After decimating the old and infirm (from a volleyball standpoint), we were crowned as consolation champions and given our share of the tourney loot: a T-shirt and some nasty-ass PowerBar snacks.

And so we left the Spanish Banks in the coming dusk of the evening, grateful for a wonderful day of sport and making sure not to miss the bus back up Broadway Street.

The moral to this story is quite simple, my friends, and it's one we should all learn. Sports are a reflection of life, and all the things we experience in sport are related to our daily meanderings. Despite the frustration and disagreeable taste of the morning's play, we stuck with it and ended up with a fantastic day to remember.

Life is just the same: every trial and tribulation we face makes us stronger and better able to cope with crises later on. Don't forget that as you carry on today.

UVSS STUDENT EXTENDED HEALTH PLAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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For full coverage details pick up the health plan brochure at the SUB Info Booth

Undergrad students with equivalent coverage may opt out at the SUB Info Booth and have the health plan fee credited to their UVic account.

Proof must be presented in person by Sept 30, 2001

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ON CAMPUS

The McPherson Library Gallery is exhibiting *Liquid Bodies and Soft Bellies* by Vancouver artist and UVic alumnus Laurel Terlesky from Aug. 12 to Sept. 27.

Ride your bicycle with confidence. Bike skills courses available at http://www.biketoworkvictoria.ca/courses.html or 920-5705.

National Depression Screening Day University Health Services (use emergency entrance) Thursday October 4, 2001 Drop in from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. UVic students, faculty and staff welcome.

OFF CAMPUS

CATHOLIC STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION Every Sunday there is a 4:00 Student Mass at Holy Cross Church, 4049 Gordon Head Rd. Welcoming Barbecue on Sunday Sept.16 at Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Rd.) for all new and returning Catholic students and friends. Starts at 5 p.m. right after 4 p.m. Mass. Club Hike up Mt. Doug on Sunday, Sept. 22, 1-3 p.m. Catholic Students' Fall Retreat Oct. 5-7, Thetis Island. For more info about these events, contact Kate at kfagan@uvic.ca or 721-8339. Visit the UVic Catholic Students' Association page at http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/~catholic/ to find out more!

The Moss Street Market is enjoying another season of organic produce and herbs, organic baked goods, crafts and a variety of interesting creations. Drop by Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to see what the market has to offer this year. The market is located at Sir James Douglas School, Thurlow + Fairfield.

Friday September 21st, 2001. Progressive Assembly Productions presents dj John Howard at Sugar Nightclub, 858 Yates. Advance tickets available at A & B Sound, Boomtown, Stylus and Retrowear. Come enjoy the deep and funky San Fransisco sounds of house dj John Howard. Featuring local talent Trever and Liam Lux. Sponsored by A & B Sound and 107.3 Extreme.

Zapatista, Anarchist, Earth First!, and Black Bloc videos all hide out at Haultain Video, 1508 Haultain 592-5124.

Big Tree Rainforest Tours/Volunteer Opportunities intown or trails. Sat/Sun daytrips Walbran-Carmanah, 381-1141 carmanah@pacificcoast.net.

English lady in Scotland seeks pen friend in teaching profession, must be 60+. Phone 011441738630275

VOLUNTEERS

Victoria Indymedia is now official! Participate by going to victoria.indymedia.org. Join the listserve or come to our meetings Sundays at 6 p.m. in Fernwood Square.

Mentors needed. Make a difference in a child's life by becoming a Mentor to an elementary school student. Visit your student one hour per week at the school and play games, sports, do arts n' crafts, bake or pursue other activities. For more information, call Bonnie at Big Brothers and Big Sisters at 475-1117 ext. 306

The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre is currently accepting applications for their crisis line volunteer training. Women interested in supporting survivors of sexual violence call 383-5545 to sign up for an information meeting on September 19 or October 3 from 6-7 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT

TRAVEL-teach English: Job Guarantee. 5 day/40hr. Nov 14-18. TESOL Teacher cert. course (or by corresp) FREE infor pack 1-888-270-2941 www.canadianglobal.net

$10.00/hour Well Groomed. Likes working with public. Enjoys promotion and marketing. Join the team, The Boom Boom Room 1208 Wharf St. Apply in person Thurs/Fri after 1:00 p.m. ask for Christine.

TUTORS

English/Philosophy Tutor $15.00/hr phone Carlos at 704-6683 email serravet@accglobal.net

FOR SALE

1996 Chevy S10 truck with canopy, 4 cyl., automatic, metallic teal, lady driven, mint condition 50, 000 km. $10, 500. Phone: 370-2977.

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Vancouver Island Recreation Map, backroads, hiking trails, campsites, mountain bike parks, insets Carmanah-Walbran, Juan de Fuca Trail and Nahmint..$10 to CFS, 1431 Richardson St., Victoria, V8S 1R1.

HEY YOU

To the people/person who took the extra copies of the Martlet off the loading dock over the weekend, we wish you wouldn't have and we wonder who you are.

I saw you standing by your silver jalopy in the late afternoon September sun. Sexy car. Sexy you. Thank you for painting the night into day with me.

Amanda: someday, someday soon....

LETTERS

continued from page 9

Re: Test Science Column by Philosopher Ken

Philosopher Ken has said he expects to be persecuted for his revolutionary view of how the universe works. I'd hate to disappoint him and will therefore engage in a good, solid bit of persecution. In his article, Ken states that it has been proven that the earth is negatively charged. Lets suppose that that's true, then the sun would have to be positively charged to attract the earth to it. Moreover, the other planets would also have to be negatively charged to be attracted to the sun. That means that the planets (being similarly charged) would repel one another; even though through astronomical observation, we know them to be attractive. I strongly disagree with his notion that the scientific establishment hates new ideas. Undeniably some scientists become very attached to their ideas. But there are also plenty of scientists who live for unexpected results. One only needs to go to a few scientific lectures to see the excitement that greets new discoveries that challenge the way we understand the world. I heartily support the Martlet's decision to try out a science column. I only wish it could be written by someone who understood that using scientific jargon does not make one scientifically literate.

John Lindner, past president
Physics and Astronomy Student Society

A Fair View

Wait...

The skin is torn, and now there is open a great wound to our sense of safety. We in Canada feel shaken; Americans must feel nothing less than shock, horror, sadness, anger. We have been hurt. When someone intentionally hurts us, some feel pain and retreat into their hurt and sadness; others feel enraged and can think of nothing else but hurting back. I flicked back and forth from CNN to CBC for twelve hours that day the hijacked planes were used as battering rams to inflict as much damage as possible upon the symbols for Western prosperity and security. I waited like others for the leaders to speak, for information to help us understand what had happened and what would happen. I listened and heard word like evil, cowards, and talk about an attack on freedom, about retribution, punishment, and winning.

We have been insulated here in North America, safe; from the everyday terror that mothers with helpless children clinging to them must endure, along with the old, the sick, the old, and the fathers and sons who must endure more suffering than the majority of North Americans could ever allow themselves to think or imagine. For everyday in this world there is in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, people like you and me – the only difference is geography – without food to eat, suffering from rape, mutilation, genocide, bombs dropping on their homes.

Although we have had the resources to stop these daily terrors – we have ignored them, turned our backs to them so that we can continue our lifestyles without too much trouble in our hearts.

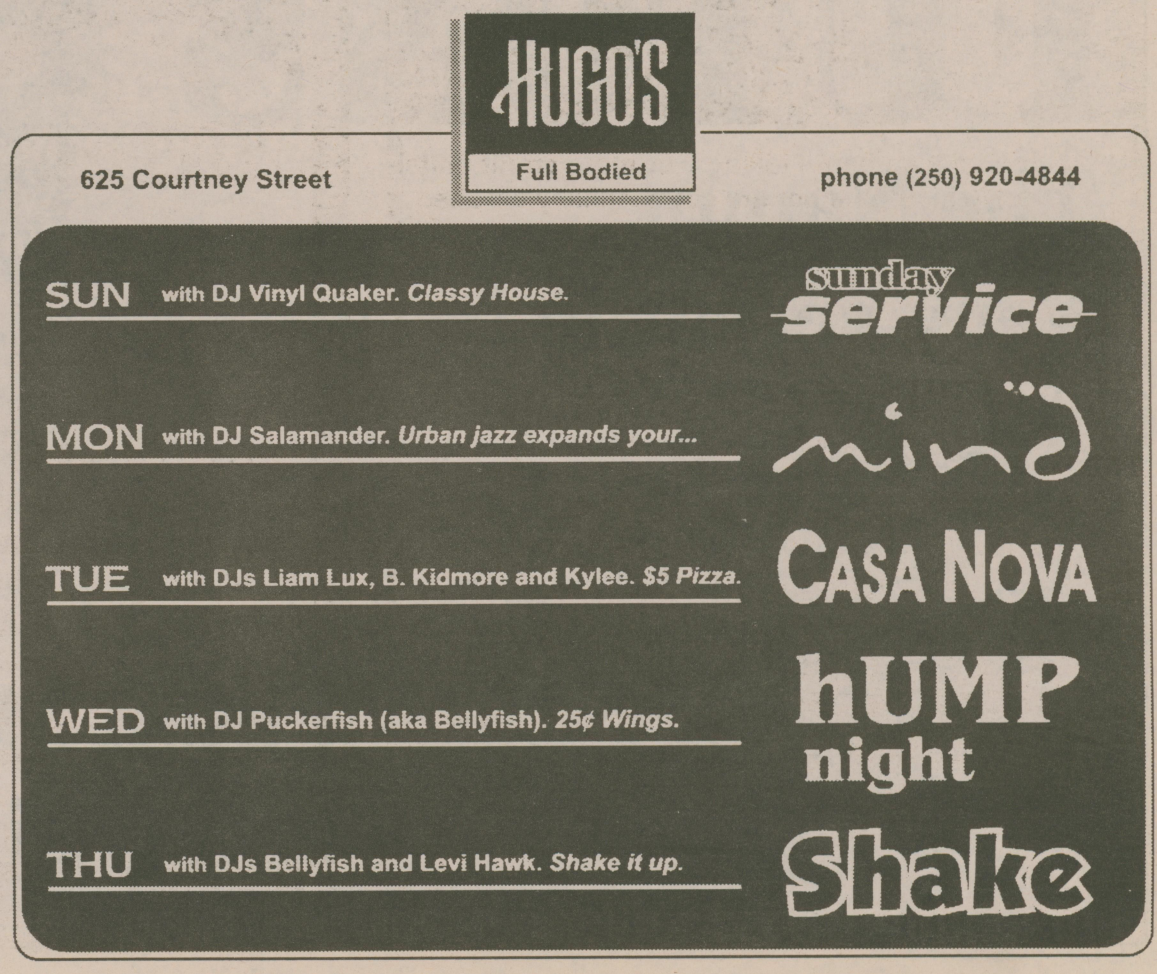
Let us not pretend to be innocent, to be pure – it is fact and not opinion that Western nations have consciously bombed civilian targets, starved children through embargos, and refused to hear calls for help as thousands suffer. Bush refuses to be part of a pact that would limit the production of biological warfare – what is biological warfare used for?

I'm not saying we're terrible – some of our acts are terrible – and it is the same in all nations and cultures – some individuals are worse than others. George Bush states, "make no mistake about it – we will win." This is dangerous language, for winning involves using one's greater power or strength to dominate another into submission – into loss – yet it is this behavior that aggravates the terrorist approach to begin with. It will only feed the hatred and reinforce the view of American as evil in the minds of the survivors as the bombs drop upon their parents and children, and the food and medicine disappears.

Let us be fair, and see the whole picture – what seeing only one side of the picture does is allow anger to fester, to justify the abominable – we can get angry, go to war, hurt and kill as many people as possible – but is this not the most primitive response?

But let us not use this to deny or rationalize the hurt we feel when we think of those air passengers and the fear they must have felt – nor for the thousands that suffer from the shock of loss in America. And let's not let this experience be a reaction in the narrow terms of 'us and them' and retribution, – but let it help us understand and wake up to what it must be like for many of the world's inhabitants without the privileges of round the clock media coverage and empathy.

James Kachmar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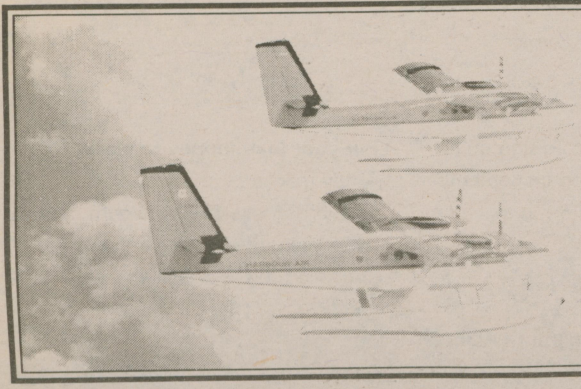

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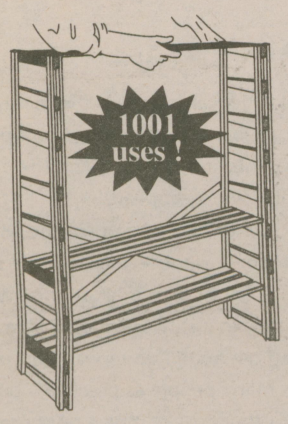

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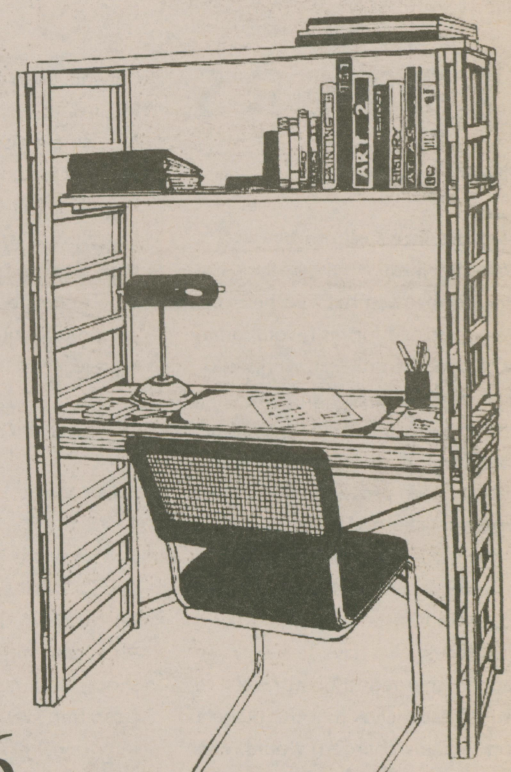

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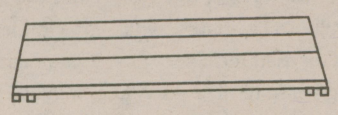

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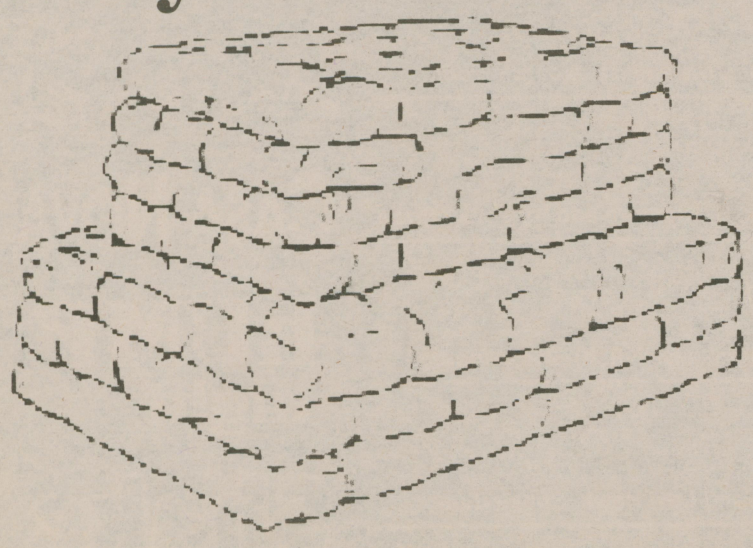

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